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George Washington University Law School, 11 Nota Bene 7 (2002)

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NOTA BENE

The George Washington Post

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Vol. 11, No. 7

GW Law Drops Two Slots in US News Rankings

By MICHAEL SILVER
Staff Writer

Each spring, curious prospective law students and their pride-conscious counterparts on campus await the annual *U.S. News & World Report* graduate school rankings. The 2003 edition came out two weeks ago, and this year the Law School is tied for twenty-fifth with five other schools (Boston University, Illinois, Washington, Wisconsin, and Washington University in St. Louis). This represents a drop from the Law School's previous ranking of twenty-third. GW once again placed in the top ten in three "Specialty" areas: Environmental Law (ninth), Intellectual Property (second) and International Law (sixth). *U.S. News & World Report* also designated the Law School as the fifteenth most "Diverse" law school.

U.S. News & World Report ranks the 175 accredited law schools based on a formula that weighs objective and subjective criteria. The first category, quality assessment, is weighted most heavily. Here, the magazine administers surveys to the dean and three faculty members at each school – as well as judges and lawyers – and asks them to rank each school on a scale from one to five. Three other categories – faculty resources, selectivity, and placement success – take into account factors such as median admission LSAT scores, employment rates upon graduation, number of titles and volumes in the library and average

per-student spending.

The rankings – along with GW's lower standing this year – have sparked debate on campus. Many have criticized the methodology behind the rankings as flawed. Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Roger Trangsrud said, "In my opinion – and that of almost all the Deans of ABA-approved law schools – it is not pos-

Trangsrud added that the law school's facilities renovation – something many felt would boost the school's standing – would not impact the ratings because the "methodology ignores [the] quality of facilities entirely."

sible to fairly and responsibly compare law schools through a simple ordinal ranking...it relies on self-reported data, combines objective and subjective data, counts some criteria twice and other relevant factors [e.g. quality of teaching] not at all." Trangsrud added that the law school's facilities renovation – something many felt would boost the school's standing – would not impact the ratings because the "methodology ignores [the] quality of facilities

entirely."

Brad Parr, a 1L, argued that the subjective criteria underemphasize GW's strengths. "Where is the measure of the faculty's scholarship? Skill at teaching? Where do they add the fact that, because we're in DC we have lecturers that [include] judges, government lawyers, and [high ranking officials] at the State Department?" Professor Greg Maggs noted that *U.S. News & World Report* erroneously "gives great, great weight to inefficiency" by rating schools higher if they spend more money per student; after all, "[a] law school needs to have the same books in the law library whether it has 150 or 250 students per class."

Some faculty members were less hesitant to criticize the actual results. Professor Maggs, in spite of his critique of *U.S. News & World Report's* methodology, believes GW's rating "is about right." He went on to add that "It would be difficult to name many schools in the Top Twenty that GW is clearly better than." Law schools, he said, "always complain the rankings are not fair. If [they] were courageous, they would each post on the Internet all the important statistics that they keep. Everyone in the world could decide what to make of the data without relying on *U.S. News* to interpret it. But that will never happen because every law school has some statistics that [they] are not proud of. Also, law schools would cook the books much worse than Enron

See RANKINGS page 9

Update on Planned World Bank-IMF Protests

By BRANDON BRISCOE
Staff Writer

The University and the Law School are covering first-floor windows with Plexiglass and bracing for the latest round of demonstrations associated with the meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund when protestors descend on downtown D.C. this weekend. Although officials do not expect the demonstrations to be as large as they have been in prior years, D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey estimates that about 10,000 protestors will be on hand when several groups plan to link their demonstrations on Saturday, April 20th. In addition to the usual anti-globalization activists, the crowd will include those protesting U.S. military action in Afghanistan and support of Israel in that nation's ongoing conflict with Palestinians.

Assistant Vice President for Public Safety and Emergency Management John Petrie, who coordinates the University's security efforts with D.C. Police, said this year's protests are expected to be "the lightest in recent memory" and estimated that

the crowd will number only in the hundreds. Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs Tom Morrison, however, remarked that the law school was taking the usual precautions despite the expectations that the events will be scaled down this year. "Are we worried? No. Are we concerned? Yes," he stated.

Morrison said the law school would remain open that weekend, but he advised students and faculty to note the security precautions that were outlined in an email sent to them last week. "A big thing is to carry your ID card with you and be ready for changes as they might happen," he said. He also suggested that students use the Foggy Bottom Metro stop to avoid the crowds and noted that roads and parking spaces may not be as accessible as usual.

All doors to the law school will be closed except the Stockton Hall, quad-side doors, where a GW ID must be presented, he said. Additionally, the city will close H Street between 19th and 20th Streets as well as 19th Street between G and H Streets, he said. University parking lots will remain open, but Lot Three across from Lerner Hall may be closed on short notice or temporarily blocked as the need arises.

Morrison pointed out that he was more concerned about professors' ability to evade traffic jams and road closings that will likely result from a large anti-war march Monday morning. "The bigger issue is the anti-war protest Monday which will block traffic on Constitution Avenue and the Memorial Bridge," he said. "That's really more of a concern." D.C. Police officials said they also plan to close roads in the vicinity of the 14th Street Bridge.

The law school made certain that no

See PROTESTERS page 9

ABA President Lectures at GW Law School



ABA President Probert Hirschon (left) is introduced by Professor Stephen Saltzburg. Photo by Bob Narod.

By BRANDON MOSS
Associate News Editor

The Manuel F. Cohen Memorial Lecture Series brought American Bar Association President Robert Hirschon to GW Law School on Tuesday, April 2. The lecture was entitled "Take Back the Future: A Guide to Meeting the Challenges of Legal Practice." Hirschon is the president of the largest professional organization in the country, which boasts 400,000 members. It was clear that Hirschon had been well traveled on the lecture circuit, and his message was geared towards law school students and what awaits them in the future. Hirschon himself is certainly no stranger to law schools: he is an adjunct professor at the University of Maine School of Law.

According to Hirschon, the practice of law is a "fundamentally different profes-

sion" from the once that he entered three decades ago. In particular, Hirschon described today's students as more worldly, entering the profession from law school's that are more diverse and inclusive than when he was a student. Hirschon embarked upon a career in the law largely due to the influence of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Moreover, Hirschon credited the "courage of lawyers and judges" for changing our social fabric, such as the quest for women's rights.

Hirschon spoke of his past experience with Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Maine, which contrasted with the main focus of his lecture: the perils of billable hours. Today's generation is being impacted by Hirschon's generation's "embrace of the bottom-line." Hirschon characterized this as the "dash for

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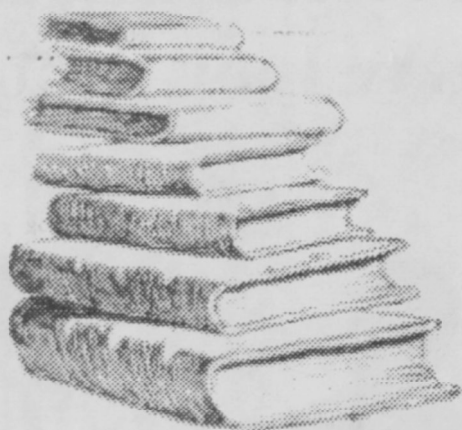
OPINIONS

Farewell and Good Luck to "The Boss"

This is the first and last time we are going to engage in a teary-eyed statement about one of our very own. Tashiba Monique Jones (or as Mark calls her ... the Boss) has been involved in the *Nota Bene* since her first year here at the law school. She served one year as News Editor and she has led this publication as its Editor-in-Chief for the past year. During her time in office the staff has increased, the quality of the paper has improved, and (hopefully) more students are interested in our publication. For all of her hard work and dedication, it is only fitting that we take time out to thank her for all that she has done.

Over the past year she has been the driving force behind the paper. Whether it was the decision of whether to print a controversial story or her constant supervision (some might call it badgering) of last year's Editorial Board, she was truly the "Boss" of the paper. Therefore, any praise of this publication should be given to Tashiba. She is truly not only the voice, but the spirit of this publication. Her leadership and eagerness to make this publication a benefit to the law school should not go unnoticed.

Our new Editorial Board will strive to continue on with the solid foundation she has helped create. Through this journey the cast of castaways on this ship ("The Minnow") might change, but the course remains the same (hopefully not towards a deserted island). Therefore, before we leave the comfortable shores and set on our course, we would like to take this time to thank our departing captain, and wish her the best of luck with all her future endeavors.



House Editorial

In My Opinion, We Already Sucked.

By EDDIE GOMEZ
Features Editor

It is a sad day for us at the George Washington University Law School. The annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings were released last week and GW has dropped out of the Top Twenty-Five. And it has done so with flying colors. Our law school is now tied at number Twenty-five with these five other "prestigious" institutions: Boston University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Washington University in St. Louis. Ever heard of Urbana-Champaign? Didn't think so.

This news comes as a shock to many of us in the GW Law community. It undoubtedly was not a shock to the administration, but more on that later. Even after millions in renovations and a new building, our school has now dropped out of the Top Twenty-five (our previous rank, thanks to the work of former Dean Jack H. Friedenthal) and is hovering somewhere between twenty-five and thirty. And all fingers point to one person: Dean Michael Young.

I would be willing to bet one of my reproductive organs that GW admitted more students than it did last year, reducing the faculty-to-student ratio and reducing our overall score. I'm also sure that we've reduced the amount of new professors. The only thing that the administration chose not to reduce was that size of its coffers. But what good are huge coffers if the undergraduate school takes over sixty percent of it, Dean Young?

Our library is a piece of garbage. Even the amount of books in an institution's library is taken into account in scoring. Many schools cheat here by warehousing old textbooks. See any warehouses? Didn't think so. Admission standards are also a huge factor and GW's likely didn't fair well in this category. Other schools also cheat here by letting those new students with lower scores attend their night or summer

programs since night and summer students are not taken into account in determining this score.

The most important factor in the rankings is "reputation." Our reputation either stayed the same or decreased. Maybe some of those ranking saw what horrid facilities the students here are subjected to. Perhaps others noticed GW President Joel Trachtenberg call Dean Young "his bitch." Either way, our reputation is nowhere near Georgetown's (#14) or even the University of Iowa's (tied for #18).

And our reputation will not increase as long as we have an inept Dean who

And our reputation will not increase as long as we have an inept Dean who doesn't raise money, raise admission criteria, or even raise the curve from a 3.0 to a 3.3, the standard for most Top Tier law schools.

doesn't raise money, raise admission criteria, or even raise the curve from a 3.0 to a 3.3, the standard for most Top Tier law schools. But don't feel sorry for Dean Young. He's still going to have a job and he will after you're gone. Lord knows, most students at GW Law have never even seen him and probably never will, save for graduation and orienta-

tion.

Feel sorry for yourselves. You struggle to get a meager 3.4 or 3.5 average, so you're on par with others looking for jobs at firms. Meanwhile, you're not even competing against the brighter students because they have a 3.3 curve. Oh yeah, and your school is somewhere between twenty-fifth and thirtieth and below Boston College, Emory and Notre Dame. At the same time, your school keeps dropping its standards and admitting more students every year, thereby lowering its national reputation and continuing this vicious cycle. And moving into the Elliot School will only give the avaricious admissions committee a justification for admitting even more students. You're at a law school where sixty cents of every dollar you pay goes to fund other schools and projects. The administration shows nothing but apathy towards you and never gets anything done. You're attending a school that has lost sight of what is really important: the students and their needs. Instead, you're stuck in a school that has only one priority - money.

Nota Bene

Editor-in-Chief Mark Hershfield
Managing Editors Andrew Thompson

News Editor Sam Schneider
Features Editor Eddie Gomez
Opinion Editor Paul J. Meissner

Staff

Erik Baptist Brandon Moss
Gualberto Garcia Jones Michael Silver
Brandon Briscoe Dawinder Sidhu
Angelia Wade Tashiba Monique Jones
Erika Turner Julie Axelrod

Nota Bene is published bi-weekly by the students of The George Washington University Law School. Its office is located in the basement at 2008 G Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20052. (202) 676-3879.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The George Washington University Law School or *Nota Bene*. House Editorials represent the views of a majority of the Editorial Board. Opinion columns are reflective of the views of the column's author(s). In articles, the source of information is identified, and an attempt is made to present a balanced view. In letters, the veracity of statements is strictly the responsibility of the author(s).

Nota Bene will consider for publication all articles, letters, announcements, cartoons or opinion pieces submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before publication. All contributions must be submitted in WordPerfect, on a diskette, which will be returned approximately one week after publication. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and other submissions should be no longer than 1000 words. *Nota Bene* strives to treat all submissions in a fair and uniform manner. However, due to space constraints, submissions may be omitted and *Nota Bene* will make reasonable efforts to print them in a later issue. Its editorial policies are available for inspection by any person during normal business hours.



News

...411...

NEWS FROM THE GW COMMUNITY

I'm Gainfully Employed

Following up the Fall Interview Program, which brought numerous large law firms to the GW Law School community at the beginning of the school year, the Career Development Office had an interview program for small- and medium-sized employers from March 25th - March 27th. Twenty-one employers were involved in the interview program, and they chose students who bid on them through E-attorney. CDO Director Fred Thrasher was "pleased with the turnout of employers," and he expressed his hope of increasing the number of employers that will come to the event in the future.

And the Winner Is...

On Thursday, April 18, there will be a Student Recognition Award Ceremony honoring the accomplishments of student leaders. Selected by their organizations, students making major roles will be honored in a ceremony to be held in the Great Room of the Burns Library. Students receiving the awards will receive certificates, and the ceremony will cap off the end of the academic year.

Excuse Me, Are Those Levi's You're Wearing?

The annual Dean's in Jeans Day was held out on the Quad on April 10th, from 4:00PM to 6:30PM. Students were recognized for their hard work via hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, soda, chips, cotton candy, and ... beer. All of this was free, of course. Students had an opportunity to be served by the deans and professors of the law school, most of whom were clad in some sort of denim. All of those who participated were in an upbeat mood, and the tradition seems to be continuing vigorously at the Law School.

Spring Ahead, Fall Back

In case you forgot, and if you have then you've been showing up too early for class, clocks were set an hour ahead for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, April 6th. However, the clocks in the Law School classrooms are still a few minutes slow by most watches. The next time that the bells ring at the top of the hour, take a look at the clock in the classroom that you're sitting in and you'll notice that it's still a few minutes behind.

I'll Take Two Tickets to See...

The Law School was a host for the screening of a movie on Wednesday, April 3rd. The Equal Justice Foundation and the Center for the Prevention of Genocide co-sponsored an advance screening of "The Genocide Factor," which will debut on PBS.

Hi Mom

For those law students that want a chance to be on TV, CNN's *Crossfire* is now filmed between 7PM and 8PM on weekdays in the School of Media and Public Affairs Building, located across the street from the Law School. The show has a longer format, and boasts Paul Begala and James Carville, both from the Clinton presidency, as the new hosts from the left. The show brings in guests from both sides of the political fence, who are then grilled by hosts with opposite political views.

Throw Out Your Dead... They're Not Dead Yet

The Law School has recently added nifty new blue metallic trash receptacles in every classroom. This replaces those small little cans that always seemed to disappear. Recycled wastes (i.e. bottles/cans and paper) are still to be disposed of in the hallway receptacles, as the new classroom receptacles are only for trash.

The SBA Beat

By SAM SCHNEIDER
News Editor

The process took a specially scheduled meeting, but the SBA passed the allocation budget for the 2002-2003 school year last Tuesday night, by a vote of fourteen to one. Only 3L evening representative Daniel Goldberg voted against the budget resolution. The total allocation is \$27,099.50, an increase of \$824.50 over last year's budget. Several new organizations will be getting money in a regular allocation for the first time next year, including the Christian Legal Society, the Corporate Law Association, and the Criminal Law Society. However, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Jewish Law Students Association, Military Law, and the Republican Law Students Association did not submit a budget request to the Budget Committee and have not been allocated any funds in next year's budget.

According to a letter distributed with the budget recommendation from SBA Treasurer Zach Ellis and Charlene Kow, the Director of Budget and Finance, "most of the student organizations did receive significant increases in their recommended annual budgets for the coming year. This was due to several factors, including: the quality of programming ideas submitted by the various organizations; the value to the law school of many of the proposed activities; and the Committee's strong desire to encourage increased activity and interaction within and between the student organizations."

The Budget Committee continued to enforce its policy against funding for travel and lodging expenses associated with attending a national conference. Ellis and Kow noted in their letter that "the tremendous potential cost" involved with those type of requests made funding them impossible.

During Tuesday night's budget hearing, 3L Representative Akil Vohra asked Ellis if there was any concern that several SBA Committees, including the Commencement Committee, the First-Year Pro-

gram Board, and the Program Board, have had their budgets cut next year. "I am sure that it is going to create some difficulties," Ellis stated. "But basically we are out of money."

Goldberg, who cast the lone no vote on the budget, asked Ellis about the format of the Black Law Student Association's Networking Night. He was specifically concerned with how BLSA notifies the entire student body about the event. Ellis said that BLSA, like all student organizations, were open to all students. Following the vote, Goldberg said in an interview that he voted against the budget because he did not know enough about each group that was being funded. "I really did not know enough about it," he remarked.

In other SBA news, SBA President Dé Famuyiwa announced the 2002-2003 SBA Executive Cabinet at the SBA Meeting on April 2nd. "I picked some good people," Famuyiwa commented. SBA Vice President Josh Harris announced a new program run by the library and the campus security department in which cards reading "You could have been RIPPED OFF. Please secure your property," will be left on unattended bags and books in the library. Harris said the reminders, which are about half the size of a standard index card, are being used in order to cut down on thefts.

Ellis announced that \$250 had been stolen out of the SBA office sometime between 5 o'clock on March 25th and 11 o'clock in the morning on March 26th. Ellis remarked that the SBA would reimburse the stolen money to the groups that were robbed. "Hopefully we will be keeping [the office] safer," he said. The SBA will hold its last meeting of the academic year on April 16th. Famuyiwa said that the meeting primarily would be used to discuss programs for the next school year.

For a complete breakdown on the budget passed by the SBA, see the table on Page 14.



Changes in the Academic Integrity Policy

By BRANDON MOSS
Associate News Editor

A report that will be released on the Law School's website on Monday, April 15th, covers the past allegations of academic dishonesty and any accompanying sanctions. The report covers the semesters between Fall 1999 and Spring 2001; this academic year is not included. Nonetheless, included within the report's cases are the allegations of academic dishonesty stemming from the law journal competition in March 2000. However, of the nine cases arising from the March 2000 competition, only six of them led to sanctions, and all of which resulted not from a hearing panel's decision, but because of an amnesty program offered for students to turn themselves in.

Those students that committed academic dishonesty

arising from the March 2000 journal competition did not face "trivial sanctions," according to Professor Arthur Wilmarth, Chair of the Committee on Academic Integrity; rather, they were barred from all future competitions for official journals (including *The Environmental Lawyer* work-on program) and bar examiners were notified of their behavior. Looking back, Renée DeVigne, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, has "confidence that [they] ultimately did the best [they] could to balance the interest of the first-year class against" a desire to uncover the collaboration that occurred during the competition. Professor Wilmarth suggested that one of the other options would have been to disregard the competition and have another competition, at a time that may not have been convenient for the first-year students.

Dean DeVigne noted that information relating to

allegations of academic dishonesty is covered under the Integrity Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, so that the identities of students and accompanying circumstances are to be protected. Professor Wilmarth characterizes the violations listed in the report as "generic." The academic dishonesty included plagiarism/cheating, the March 2000 journal competition, forgery/falsification of documents and records, cheating, and the use of an outline during an exam that prohibited outlines. Failure to stop writing when time is called during an exam is grounds for academic dishonesty.

The sanctions that resulted from the twenty-six cases that occurred between Fall 1999 and Spring 2001 ranged from expulsion for plagiarism and cheating to a perma-

See INTEGRITY POLICY page 9

ONE (HEL)L[©]

By ERIK BAPTIST
Staff Writer

A few people came up to me last week and expressed their sympathy because they felt that Mark Hershfield really attacked me in his "TWO (HEL)L" column. For those of you who still don't know, I WROTE THAT COLUMN! It was the April Fool's edition of *Nola Bene*. Please, please don't give him that much credit.

I seriously can't believe that my first year of law school is nearly over. I think I have learned more over the past year than I have in my entire life combined. Let's take a look and see what attending law school has taught me:

Law school is very similar to junior high school – minus the braces, acne, and bad haircuts. Many of us, including me, love to gossip about each other's personal lives: who's doing what with whom. We still have classmates who fit certain stereotypes: geeks, dweebs, jocks (actually not that many), people too cool to talk to me (way too many), and that creepy kid in the library who looks like he sniffed too much glue as a child. All we really need is a fight at the flagpole after class to make this analogy complete. If only Tonya Harding and Paula Jones went to GW Law....

Some professors like to wear the same suit to class everyday. I used to make fun of this fact. But then I started interviewing for summer jobs and realized that I was wearing the same damn suit to school everyday as well. I am now just like them. Ah...

Never lock yourself out of your apartment at 3 AM on a Saturday night. And never believe anything you see on MacGyver: you can't pick a lock with a penny and a note card (or at least, I couldn't). And never take sleeping on a bed for granted again (trust me, sleeping on a cement stairwell is as comfy as it sounds). And never, ever leave your apartment for any reason when you're only wearing your boxers. Damn it was cold.

Cockroaches are the most disgusting creatures on earth, not counting personal injury lawyers. Last semester, when I faced an attack of the killer cockroaches, I learned numerous things about these bugs. First, they hop around; they don't really fly or walk. Second, they're not afraid of anything, especially humans. Third, I cry like a school girl when one of them hops up and touches me. Fourth, their body parts start to fall off when you spray them with Raid. Fifth, when you spray them with Raid, leave the room or you'll become very ill. Sixth, it's not appendicitis, but rather Raidicitis, when you want to puke in Civil Procedure (and you're not even reading one of Justice Brennan's lengthy dissents).

It's not as easy as it sounds to start a fight with Osama bin Laden. My brief attempt at including a section entitled "Your Momma Osama" to compel him to come out of hiding failed completely. That goat

molester is still at-large and continuing his abuse of barnyard animals. Think of those poor creatures. But I still like the fact that his name spells many funny anagrams: Be a slain nomad; Albania's demon; A lesbian nomad; So I anal bad men; I model bananas; I'm Dole bananas; I.D.: Mean Anal S.O.B.; No Asian bedlam; Is a lone, bad man; and finally, Do a samba, Lenin. Take that Osama.

You should never bash the CDO and then expect them not to give you dirty looks every time you see them. I guess I should have waited until after the Fall Interview Program to do that, because then I will be justifiably bitter. That is, unless they can find me a job with a six-figure salary and a forty-hour workweek. I'm not asking for too much, am I?

Mark Hershfield really hates it when I compare him to Mike Tyson. And here-ally hates it when people refer to him as Mike Tyson. So, I'm begging all of you, please, please call him Mike Tyson. It will make me ever so happy.

Those of you who warned me that Hershfield was creepy, shady, sleazy, and gawky, you all were correct. There is no need to beat a sketchy horse anymore.

Law school turns your dating life into a roller coaster: one second you're up, the next you're down, then you're upside down, and you end up puking after it's all over. Even though I have yet to go on a date with a law student (Reba doesn't really count), I met many girls outside of the law school. All I needed was to change my pickup line ("Hey, I'm Erik. What's your name?") and try something to my advantage ("Hey, aren't you in my law school class?"). Seeing the dollar signs in the girls' eyes and hearing the "cha-ching," I knew that this new line would work. And it did. But be careful with women who lie about their age by many, many years! Actually, just be careful with teachers who act like they're 19 – they're not!

My Barrister's Ball date doesn't hate me. But as of last week, Reba still hates it when I ask her for the money that I spent to buy a ticket for the "Prom," even though she asked me to go. It's too bad for her that I will keep this joke running until graduation.

Finally, I have been accepted into the Guinness Book of World Records for being the only person ever to receive an offer at an interview and then have it rescinded in that same interview. Damn I'm good.

And yes, that is a copyright mark next to the title of this article. The last thing I want to see next year is some 1L punk come and steal the column that I so ingeniously invented. Hey, if Pat Riley can copyright "Three-peat," I can copyright "ONE (HEL)L" and make some money off it. Right? Damn Property! Better yet, DAMN LAW SCHOOL!!!

20 Things I'll Miss About GW Law

1. Free food
2. Emergency loans
3. My mailbox
4. People who gave me ideas for 20 questions
5. Paying out \$26,000 in tuition (NOT!)
6. Lack of sleep (Yeah right!)
7. Dean's Jeans Day!
8. Being called on in class when you're unprepared. (HA!)
9. The Law Revue Show
10. Learning
11. Candy from BarBri
12. Shuffling through Lexis Printouts in the library to find my documents (I don't think so)
13. Trash bins that allow for waste, paper and can disposal.
14. The sirens from ambulances and fire trucks on their way to the GW Hospital (Uhhmm)
15. Playing games on my computer in boring classes.
16. Watching other people play games on their computer in boring classes.
17. Looking for the Dean's office.
18. The EJP Auction
19. Stress (The saga continues)
20. Graduation means I'm getting old.

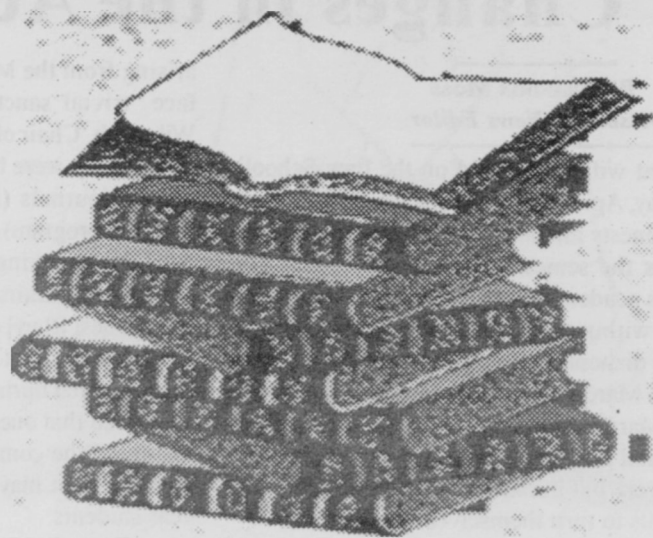
20 Things I Won't Miss About GW Law

1. 1-20: George Washington! Naw, I'm playing. Here goes:
2. Lack of lighting in the library (Thanks Jessica)
3. The Time it takes for the computer to reboot after someone has logged out
4. Congestion on the stairs
5. The dirty hard lounge
6. The sleeper sofas in the soft lounge (We don't have any that's why I won't miss them)
7. Corny jokes by professors (Thanks, June)
8. One-ply toilet paper
9. Pizza
10. Trying to understand cart-lady when she's asking me a question
11. Au Bon Pain's high prices
12. Mean proctors
13. Broken elevators
14. Professors who can't teach
15. Dot Matrix Printers
16. My \$8.00 printing allotment
17. Expensive books at Washington Law Books
18. Trying to get on the trial court board
19. Parking
20. THE UNDERGRADS!

By ANGELIA WADE



Holy black suits, Batman! Hey, isn't that our little Erik right up front at the Government Job Fair?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Lesson in Objectification

BY SARAH VAN DERVEER, 2L

Persuaded by Angela Wade's statement that "it's not really an opinion unless you express it," I'd like to share some thoughts about Eddie Gomez's recent masterpiece, also known as "Memoirs from Spring Break." Aside from the fact that most of it was machismo grand-standing, it was completely degrading to women. For a "dashing and well-spoken intellectual," I will assume that Eddie doesn't mean to be sexist, he just thinks that sexism passes for comedic journalism.

My main problem with the article is that the only references to women refer only to their physical or sexual attributes and, as such, result in objectification. Although our society abounds with the objectification of women, writer Martha Nussbaum notes that some forms of objectification are more sinister than others, and that each must be evaluated in context. Here, the context is spring break, which admittedly generally consists of bacchanalian romping and hectic hedonism. As a general rule, that's a good thing.

But Joe's drunken stumble into "The Scrub Club" was a little too much to take. Leaving questions of whether all prostitution is oppressive aside, there is a not so remote possibility that Lena, "the Czech beauty," was trafficked to the US for the purposes of prostitution and was being held

in debt bondage, especially since it appeared as if she lived in her room. If not trafficked, perhaps her choice of occupation stemmed from economic desperation. It is also important to note that it is demand for prostitution that helps to create the conditions where trafficking can occur. Lena is only referred to as an object for Joe's satisfac-

tion – and implicit in the article is a denial of autonomy and subjectivity that I find objectionable. Although I suppose it's remarkable that Joe, who was too drunk to notice the red lights outside of the brothel, was able to muster himself into a condition to get any bang for his buck.

All other references to women were related to their desirability or non-desirability

as sexual objects, which necessarily leads one to a conclusion that women are fungible and don't have value aside from their physical attributes. What is additionally troubling is that while there's no doubt that these attitudes abound in our society, they are normally not expressed by a supposedly well-educated person. Finally, how this piece has any place in a law school newspaper is beyond me, but then again, *Nota Bene* has never been good for much more than lining a birdcage or housebreaking puppies. While these not-so-rousing tales of debauchery and moral degenerate activity may have a place in this world, I'm hoping that that place is not here.

All other references to women were related to their desirability or non-desirability as sexual objects, which necessarily leads one to a conclusion that women are fungible and don't have value aside from their physical attributes.

Another Opportunity to Be On a Journal

BY DAVID BLUNDELL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER

I found Andy Thompson's article about getting hurt by your grades for journal membership interesting. I think to talk about "The Journals" is a misnomer and *The Environmental Lawyer* offers a genuine opportunity for anybody who is willing to work hard. *The Environmental Lawyer* does not as Andy's article articulates give "the average student a chance." The "average student" never got admitted, and I strongly believe there are no "average students" at the law school.

I would point out that my grades did not get me on the *Environmental Lawyer* and they never got me the position of Editor-in-Chief. Like the majority of the Edi-

torial Board, I was accepted through the summer work-on program, and my grades were also not taken into consideration for Board selection. We give every student the chance to be on our journal regardless of grades. All it takes is enthusiasm, perseverance, and the ability to complete your assignments.

Every GW law student with at least two semesters remaining is welcome to join our summer work-on and compete for membership on the journal. This year's program will run for seven weeks beginning on June 1st. For more details there will be two identical information sessions in L302 on April 22nd and 23rd at 5pm.

We give every student the chance to be on our journal regardless of grades. All it takes is enthusiasm, perseverance, and the ability to complete your assignments.



Nota Bene Jerkoffs

BY JOHN F. BANZHAF III, PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

The April Fool's day article "Banzhaf Isn't Jerking Around" might be confusing to some law student readers because it mixes fact and fiction, as well as some misinformation with misunderstanding. TRUTH: It is true that law students in my class in Legal Activism

did file a series of legal actions, which led to the elimination of "Ladies' Nights" in the major bars and clubs of D.C. at the time. The students argued that the practice constituted illegal sex discrimination under the D.C. Human Rights Act. Interestingly enough,

the three students were all women -- members of the class of people, which benefited financially under the practice -- who nevertheless found it objectionable.

MISINFORMATION: I am NOT "contemplating suing fast food companies" under the same legal theories that my colleagues and I in the antismoking movement have used so successfully against the major tobacco companies. However, there is a real class action lawsuit several students in my class in Legal Activism helped to initiate. It was filed against McDonald's because the company allegedly misrepresented the fat content of its French fries. [For a 2-minute video clip, click on <http://gwlaw.info/fatfries>.] The suit is hardly frivolous, because McDonald's has now agreed to end the deceptive practice, and is in the process of settling the suit for over twelve million -- some of which is expected to go to the law students. How's that for a clinical

project!

MISUNDERSTANDING: The article suggests that suing fast food companies for misrepresenting the fat content of their foods, and therefore contributing to obesity, ignores "personal choice." However, an underlying premise of any such law suit would be that consumers are entitled to relevant and material information about

products they are considering purchasing, and providing them with incorrect information prohibits them from exercising their personal choice. In an editorial, *The Chicago Tribune* castigated McDonald's for "duping" its customers: "even the most careful consumers can't protect

However, if I were going to bring any such suit, I certainly would not be so sexist -- and rely upon gender stereotyping as the Nota Bene writers did -- as to assume that adult magazines cause only "men" to masturbate. Perhaps the editors never heard about Playgirl magazine and "Sex in the City," or met a woman who was open about her sexuality.

themselves when a food producer hides what's in its product."

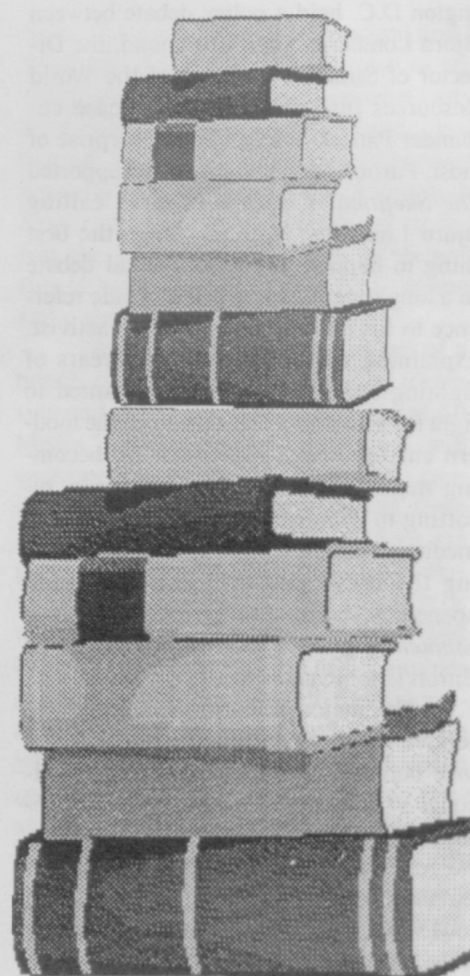
FALSE: As I'm sure most readers realized, I'm not really planning to bring a class action against the publishers of "adult" magazines like *Playboy* and *Hustler* for forcing "about 1000 men" (class members) to masturbate. However, if I were going to bring any such suit, I certainly would not be so sexist -- and rely upon gender stereotyping as the *Nota Bene* writers did -- as to assume that adult magazines cause only "men" to masturbate. Perhaps the editors never heard about *Playgirl* magazine and "Sex in the City," or met a woman who was open about her sexuality.

Editor's Note - the article Professor Banzhaf is responding to appeared in the April's Fool's Edition of the *Nota Bene* in which ALL of the stories were intended to be humorous fiction. The title of this opinion was provided by the author.

I Just Want to Be Left Alone

BY JEREMY MEDOVOY, 1L DAY

A disturbing incident occurred during one of my classes this week. A member of our esteemed faculty, who had been evaluating our class from the back row, approached one of my classmates after class and criticized him for playing solitaire. So long as students are not disturbing class, it is not for anyone to restrict a student's freedoms. It is especially the role of a University, I believe, to emanate such values as freedom of expression. We pay \$30,000 a year and someone has the temerity to intimidate a student and attempt to control a student's conduct! What's next? Can I no longer play football in the quad between classes? Or better yet, would you like to restrict freedom of the press and prohibit *Nota Bene* from publishing this letter?



FEATURES

Paul's Movie Experience

By Paul J. Meissner



Blade II: More Gore, Less Plot

2½ Stars

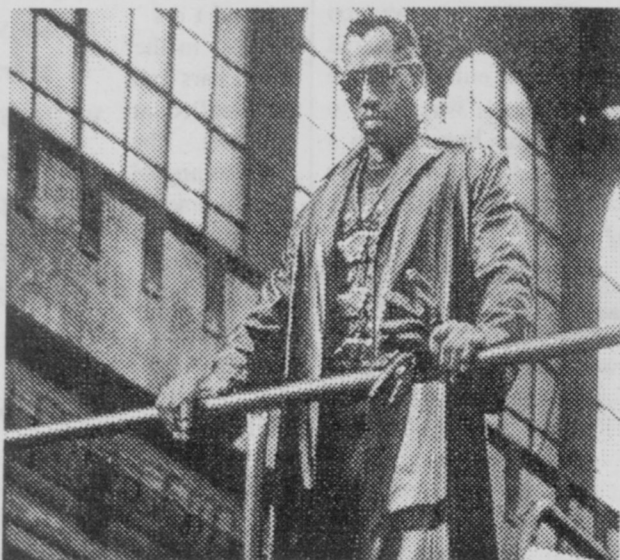
I am not the biggest fan of sequels (and prequels). I am not the biggest fan of vampires either, but I had to go see *Blade II*. Perhaps I like Wesley Snipes. Perhaps I like seeing people getting their heads sliced off. Perhaps I like seeing people getting blown up. Perhaps I am an evil person. Who knows? But either way, I had to go see *Blade II* much like a pilgrim on a Hajj.

You need to know a little bit about the original before I can tell you about the sequel. In the original *Blade*, the main character is aptly named Blade and is played by badass Wesley Snipes. His mission: to destroy an underworld of parasitic vampires. His weapons: swords of silver and guns shooting bullets laced with garlic. His friends: just one, Whistler (played by Chris Kristofferson). He is greatly feared in the vampire community because Blade, a vampire himself, not only possesses superhuman strength, strategic cunning, and intelligence but also has none of a vampire's weaknesses. He is immune to garlic, and he can tolerate sunlight.

Now that I have said something about the original *Blade*, I can talk about its recently debuted sequel. Blade continues on his journey to rid the world of its no-longer-mythical oppressors. His alternative motive is to go after Whistler (played again by Chris Kristofferson). The logic of the movie slipped by me a little since Whistler was an ally in the first movie, but here I had no idea which side

Whistler was on.

While engaged in his mission to find his old friend, Blade stumbles upon yet another haven of vampires. In-



Wesley Snipes as Blade

stead of killing each other outright, they offer a truce. Their intent is to team up with Blade to destroy a new vampire-hybrid plaguing vampires and humans alike. These ge-

netic mutations (called reapers) are the "new kids on the block" out to destroy all.

Blade is a bizarre saga. If you are not into the idea of action/fantasy/horror, the overall storyline will elude you. It may not be as mindless as the average "chic-flick," and it is not as popular as *Star Wars*, but *Blade* and movies like it provide a fun-filled roller coaster of excitement, adventure, and gore. The *Blade* saga is a creative way to show a lot of over-the-top death but still attempt to attach some story to it.

I would say *Blade II* was a fine movie, but it did not have much of a plot besides watching a lot of double-crossing characters and dead vampires. The characters seemed to run from one silly dilemma to kill people to another silly dilemma to kill other people. The story did not seem to flow logically and was filled with silly subplots. The storyline for this installment of the *Blade* saga was pretty silly, but mindlessness is not all a bad thing.

Blade II is not for the weak-stomached. It features a lot of heads getting sliced in half, people eating spinal cords, and people getting blown up. (Nothing is better than being on a date while watching a person's head explode on a fifty-foot movie screen.) There is a lot of death and gruesome special effects, so perhaps the weak-stomached should go see something like that new retarded Cameron Diaz movie or go rent *Bounce*.

Book Review: The Skeptical Environmentalist

By GUALBERTO GARCIA JONES
Staff Writer

The Washington Post lauds Bjorn Lomborg's *Skeptical Environmentalist* as "the most significant work on the environment since the appearance of its polar opposite, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, in 1962. It's a magnificent achievement." (*Washington Post Book World*, 2-10-01)

On April 9th, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington D.C. held a policy debate between Bjorn Lomborg, Allan Hammond, the Director of Strategic Analysis of the World Resources Institute, and Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore. To the surprise of most, Patrick Moore vigorously supported *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, calling Bjorn Lomborg "brilliant" and "the best thing to happen to environmental debate in a long time." Moore briefly made reference to his days as a Greenpeace activist, explaining that after the many years of fighting against everyone, he wanted to fight for something. He criticized the modern environmental movement for becoming stagnated in an adversarial mode, resorting to doomsday predictions, and premeditated mass media exaggerations. During the IFPRI debate, Allan Hammond opened by stating that the *Skeptical Environmentalist* is to environmentalism as Enron is to investment.

The major Scientific Journals have derided Lomborg's work. *Nature* and *Science* both published short and biting critiques of his work; he was allowed no rebuttal. Most notably, *Scientific American*, the American layman's scientific journal par excellence, published in its January 2002 issue a scathing eleven-page critique of the book and its author. In the *Scientific*

American article, four prominent environmental scientists that are questioned in *The Skeptical Environmentalist* are given ample space to criticize Lomborg. In the introduction, John Rennie, the Editor in Chief of *Scientific American* opens with the title, "The Skeptical Environmentalist: Misleading Math About the Earth", and closes his introduction with "the book is a failure". Clearly, Lomborg has struck a nerve.

When asked about Bjorn Lomborg and *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, most environmentalists will dismiss him and his work as one of those anti-environmentalist books that comes out every so often. With all due respect, although I am not a scientist, I keep up with the scientific journals and nowhere have I seen a scholarly work like this before, never have I witnessed such a reaction by the scientific community.

The premise of the book is evident from the opening chapter (available at www.lomborg.com) "Mankind's lot has actually improved in terms of practically every measurable indicator". However, Lomborg is careful to point out that while the state of the world is improving, it doesn't mean we don't need to do more to make it better.

As a statistician, Lomborg advocates the need to be critical when translating scientific theories into public policy. One of Lomborg's main claims is to question the environmentalist mantra of global warming by submitting high carbon reduction schemes to a cost benefit analysis. What Lomborg finds is that, high carbon reductions are not justified. For example, the Kyoto protocol would reduce greenhouse gases by six percent in an extended period of one hundred years. With the money spent on instituting the Kyoto protocol for

only a single year, all of Africa could enjoy safe drinking water. Clearly there is a problem in prioritization. Of course, at the mention of statistics the red flags are raised, but Lomborg has not only used the very facts supported and used by the scientific and policy community but he has documented all of them in an impressive 2900 citations (if only Enron and Arthur Anderson had kept such detailed notes!).

The Skeptical Environmentalist seeks to dispel various myths, which Lomborg terms *The Litany*. The Litany announces that the environment is in poor shape: biodiversity is spiraling downwards, population is growing out of control, we are running out of food, we are running out of fuel, pollution is increasing, forest cover is diminishing. Yet the evidence simply does not support these pessimistic conclusions.

The debate over *The Skeptical Environmentalist* has reached such prominence for several reasons. The first can be explained by a closer look at the subtitle of *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*. While there is little doubt that the scientific evidence and the methodology which produces it is solid, the large scale predictions that result in the major policy direction of environmental agencies is not. The step that is missing between the solid scientific research and effective environmental policy is a cost benefit analysis. Without a level-headed cost benefit analysis, environmental policy is likely to be shaped by the worst case scenarios and the media's natural tendency to report what sells, namely disaster, mayhem, and impending doom. The Litany is the result of a cycle that starts with solid data, followed by selective reporting of the worst-case scenario, then by unfounded public concern, and finally by mistaken,

hasty policy.

As evidenced by the vehement reviews of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, the scientific community itself believes the Litany. This is due to a sort of scientific myopia or a tunnel vision if you will. Inevitably, as the scientific community expands, it also becomes more specialized, and subsequently it loses its ability to make or judge macro policy decisions. Scientists are not policy makers, but policy makers and the media look to their expert opinions to both shape and gauge public opinion. In effect, Lomborg seeks to remind people that environmental policy has to be kept within a frame of reference. Societal policy should be shaped according to logical choices, but logical choices require transparency and honest interpretations of the facts. Humans have a choice between spending money on one problem or another (money is limited) but in order to make a rational choice we must recognize the problems for what they really are and not for the catastrophic possibilities presented in the media.

The Skeptical Environmentalist thinks outside of the box, caring about the environment but not having a direct interest in advocating one prediction or another, he looks at the best available data and finds that the world is doing better and better by practically all standards, and that the current environmental policy is criminally inefficient at its stated goal of making the world a better place to live in. The best answer that the scientific community has come up with has been to disparage Bjorn Lomborg for not being an expert, but interestingly they almost never attack the data he uses, since ironically, it is their own. To get all the facts read Bjorn Lomborg's book: *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*.

OPINIONS

Alternatives to Law Firms

By PAUL J. MEISSNER
Opinion Editor

There is a plethora of potential employment sectors open to us as law students. We have heard about the large law firms, the small/medium firms, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations (rarely), and even Congress. Even though there are many employment sectors for lawyers, the types of actual work to be performed seem rather limited. It seems that no matter the employment sector, every single job only presents two career paths: litigation and transactional work.

Both of these opportunities are great, don't get me wrong. For instance, litigation uses a person's research and writing skills to argue a client's case. Obviously, the better researcher and the better orator one is, the more likely it is to win cases. In litigation, the lawyer could take on issues that he or she cares about and can do something about them. Issues such as cleaning up the environment, prosecuting miscreants, or eliminating corporate irresponsibility could all use the intellectual capital of new advocates.

Besides litigation, transactional work and legal planning offer a lot of opportunity as well. Instead of pitting sides against each other in some 21st century gladiator tournament, parties can work together to accomplish a certain goal. The goal could be a new IPO, a tax-free corporate reorganization, a real estate closing, or even an international adoption. Transactional work provides that win-win feeling in that all parties were able to use lawyers and mutually benefit.

However, there are those students who want to try something other than the two standbys when they graduate. Many feel like they want to use their law degrees for something other than being a traditional lawyer. This may sound silly to a person with the prospect of making \$2,000 per week at a big firm to be wined and dined this summer or to a recent graduate mak-

ing over \$120,000 per year, but there are those people exploring these "alternative" career options.

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending a CDO-sponsored panel discussion on alternative career paths. On the featured panel, there were representatives from human resources for GW, from West publishing group, and from a lobbying organization. (By the way, there was supposed to be an investment banker there, but he had to cancel.) The attending panelists addressed a packed room of law students about their law school experiences and what led them to make the decisions they made. Each one of these workers seemed to be quite happy about the "alternative" career path she had chosen.

The panelists stressed that it is difficult to get into an alternative career path. It involves going beyond the old standbys of the FIP, job fairs, and sending cold resumes. It may require (sadly) not being able to make as much money straight out of law school. It may involve making more connections in the real world, and developing a real interest in addition to (but not in lieu of) the law. In my opinion, it also seems to involve bringing something to the table besides a law degree. Whether it is some full time job before law school or a deep interest in some cause, that may be necessary when pursuing an alternative career path.

I know I give the CDO a lot of grief, but here I have to applaud them for sponsoring such an event. The fact that the event was so well attended is proof that litigation and transactions may not be enough to satisfy the palate of the modern law student. My hope is that the CDO and the other "powers-that-be" put on more of these events next year. I hope they will bring people from many diverse walks of life including nonprofit agencies, rulemaking organizations, corporate finance, and even politics.

My other hope is that each person finds something to make him or her happy. I know that sounds like something a parent

Rough Road Ahead

Across

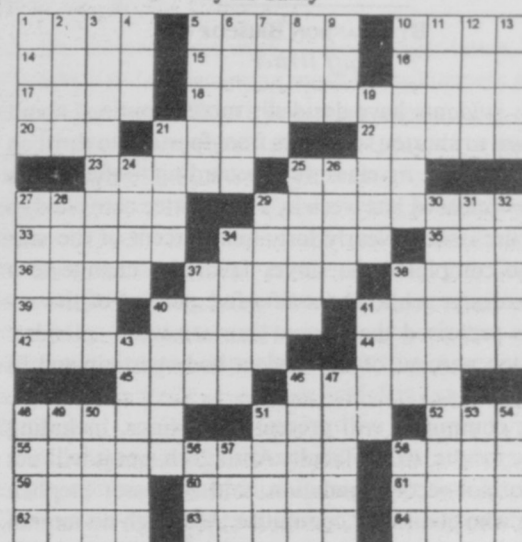
- 1 Having no doubt
- 5 Eastman's Company
- 10 Restless desire
- 14 Head cases
- 15 Endure
- 16 Poi plant
- 17 Expression of grief
- 18 Highway teacher?
- 20 Hat
- 21 Iowa State locale
- 22 Actor Merlin
- 23 Polynesian dances
- 25 Bangkok resident
- 27 Twenty
- 29 Ditch digger?
- 33 Engine noises
- 34 Important sewer pipes
- 35 IRS tax deferral item
- 36 Get up
- 37 French painter
- 38 Command word for Fido
- 39 Bravo
- 40 Bishop's head piece
- 41 Roly-poly
- 42 Frown on
- 44 Pale
- 45 Yarn-spinner
- 46 Svelte
- 48 Girder
- 51 Quarterback's call
- 52 Free from
- 55 Angry highways?
- 58 First-rate
- 59 Squal
- 60 Arrivederci
- 61 Go steady
- 62 Monster's lake
- 63 Pasta type
- 64 Aroma

Down

- 1 Circus star
- 2 fruit
- 3 Highway pit stops?
- 4 Road curve

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty



- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 5 Hindu destiny | 40 Injures seriously |
| 6 Woodwinds | 41 Domino, for one |
| 7 Bartholomew _____ Cape of Good Hope navigator | 43 Canteens |
| 8 Tally | 46 Burdened |
| 9 Nail holder | 47 Edition |
| 10 Font type | 48 Computer image |
| 11 Small quantities | 49 Cheese |
| 12 Native American people | 50 Long ago |
| 13 Trumpet | 51 Annoyance |
| 19 Certain horses | 53 Division word |
| 21 Pub servings | 54 tick |
| 24 Strong desire | 56 Precedes music or sheet |
| 25 D.A., for one | 57 to Joy |
| 26 Cacklers | 58 Fuss |
| 27 Gloucester offering | |
| 28 Spicy dish | |
| 29 More docile | |
| 30 Scram | |
| 31 Remove from memory | |
| 32 Fabric | |
| 34 Engine | |
| 37 Prima donna | |
| 38 Cumberbund | |

Quotable Quote

To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.

• Chinese Proverb

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Crossword Answer on Page 15

would say, but it is quite true. Getting excellent grades, making law review, or making a lot of money is worth nothing unless you are happy. It does not matter whether it is working in litigation, transactions, or

some alternative career path, being happy with one's profession is the only thing that truly counts. See you next year, and have a great summer!

Singing the Praises of Howard Stern

There are not many shows still on the air that I remember watching as a kid. The days of *Married with Children*, *21 Jump Street*, and *Small Wonder* are long gone. However, not all the shows of my childhood are now relegated to re-runs. As a child, I used to stay up late on Friday nights (probably till about 1AM) to watch this one show on Channel nine (back when I lived in New Jersey). That show was none other than ... the *Howard Stern Show*.

Let me take a wild guess, I am sure that few people at the law school either watch Howard Stern on television or listen to him on WJFK during the morning commute. I am sure most people think he is a racist, sexist, homophobic, and idiotic to put it mildly. I am sure you are asking yourself how someone who is educated could sit there and rot his brain practically every day by watching that "filth."

I watch the *Howard Stern Show* because I find him and his show to be entertaining. The *Howard Stern Show*, in my view, is the best non-sport show on TV. (I consider wrestling to be a sport.) It has everything I enjoy watching from people doing dumb things to strippers to celebrities to musicians. It is nothing short of hilarious watching the interactions among a

cast of characters that includes "Beetlejuice," "Slow Adam," "Robyn," and "Stuttering John."

I like Howard Stern because he is an honest person. He says what I am thinking, and I am willing to bet he says what many of us are thinking (where political correctness tells us we should not be thinking). It is this honesty that many critics confuse with ignorance. It is not ignorance, but it is merely a situation when an individual is having fun and some times people have fun at others expenses (a simple fact of life). When Howard makes fun of a person for being a little "slow" or being a little "overweight," he is simply reaching down in his pocket to pull out a joke. Comedy is an essential component of life, and his show is full of these comedic moments.

I must say that there are many advantages of watching the *Howard Stern Show* on television as opposed to listening to it on the radio. Maybe it is my lack of an imagination, but I always find it inter-

esting to put a face with a

voice. I would

also be lying if

I didn't enjoy

watching such

skits as

"Evaluate

Me for

Playboy"

and "Who

Wants to

Marry a

Porn-Star?"

Let's face the facts, guys en-

joy watching attractive women on television, and the *Howard Stern Show* rarely goes an episode without a scantily clad attractive woman on it (this is why most women I know tell me they do not watch the show).

So call me a "sexist pig" (it wouldn't be the first time), or call me "insensitive" (ditto), but I am a proud fan of Howard

Stern. I consider myself a Democrat and I have never voted for a Republican in my life, but Howard Stern (not sure what party he is a member of) is the kind of individual I would like to see in office. When he toyed with the idea of running for Governor of New York, I was behind him, and he has just the kind of attitude that politicians should have. His voice is a voice of reason and a sincere one.

Howard Stern is nothing short of a breath of fresh air in the world of television and radio. He is truly the "King of All Media." Many people, I guarantee, will continue to criticize him, but he will continue to live on for one simple reason: there are people like me out there. There are plenty of people who just want to be entertained when they sit in front of a TV or turn on the radio. Not all of our time should be spent discussing the rule of perpetuities or whether something qualifies as due process. So I encourage each and everyone to take some time out of the day and watch something that makes them laugh on television. Whether you are turning on the E! Channel at 11PM to watch Howard or not, at least watch something funny. Life goes by too fast, not to stop and get a good laugh every once in awhile.

INSIDE HERSHFIELD'S HEAD

BY MARK HERSHFIELD

NEWS

Student Body Divided Over Shortening Semester

By BRANDON BRISCOE
Staff Writer

Law students have decidedly mixed opinions about the proposal to shorten semesters from fourteen to thirteen weeks by lengthening class time, according to the results of a survey released last week by a committee convened to examine the issue. Nearly forty-four percent of the students who completed the survey favored a change to a shorter semester while about fifty-five percent of the respondents preferred the current fourteen-week calendar. Roughly ten percent of the student body participated in the survey.

The committee will present its findings, including the survey results, to the faculty April 26th, but it will not make a formal recommendation, said Professor Stephen Saltzburg who chairs the committee. Although no motion pertaining to the calendar is on the floor, the faculty will likely vote on the issue at that meeting. If adopted, the shorter semesters would likely not begin until the 2003-2004 school year, Saltzburg stated.

Saltzburg remarked that the survey results mirrored the committee's deliberations. "The results confirmed the judgment of our committee that there are a lot of close calls - this is not easy," he stated. "I think the faculty will pay close attention to the fact that students are not of one mind."

Mike Silver, a 1L day student and committee member, commented that despite the committee's evenly split opinion, the survey results were not entirely consistent with expectations. "I sensed that people were leaning toward a change," he said. "The survey results were a little surprising."

Nearly eight percent of day students and twenty percent of evening students completed the survey, although day students' surveys still comprised sixty-five percent of the 142 total responses from the 1489 enrolled students. While pleased with the student participation, particularly with the relative balance of day and evening student responses, committee members acknowledged several difficulties that likely reduced participation. Kashmira Makwana, a 2L evening student and the other student representative on the committee, said the survey was competing for students' attention with spring break plans and 1L appellate briefs. "That week probably wasn't the most ideal week [to conduct the survey]," she remarked.

Makwana also cited difficulties in publicizing the survey and the time constraints imposed on the committee as factors that might have lowered student response to the survey. "We thought of doing an online survey, but it just wasn't feasible in the amount of time we had," she said. "Still, I think ten percent is a pretty significant response."

Silver remarked that students' lack of information was likely more problematic than their lack of participation because he doubted many students read the committee's fourteen-page report on the benefits and consequences of a calendar change, which was available online. "It was great that we got the survey and executive summary to every single student," he stated, "but I don't think a lot of people read the full report. I think there was some important information there."

Silver said students' overwhelming insistence that no reading days be cut from the calendar indicated that many had not read the full report. In certain years the timing of Labor Day would require an earlier start to the fall semester or a loss of a reading day, but this "worst case scenario," as described by the committee, would not occur until 2009. "I really think that if students knew it wouldn't happen for ten years and that the administration was pragmatic enough to start before Labor Day, more would have voted for the change," Silver remarked.

Nearly eighty-five percent of the responding students indicated that they would prefer to begin a thirteen-week semester before Labor Day to avoid any possibility of losing a reading day. About fifteen students expressed their concern about a shorter reading period in written comments on the survey, and others voiced similar opinions through their SBA representatives, Silver said.

Makwana commented that many students are protective of reading days because they are seen as an essential part of exam preparation. "Students value them because they think the time will make a difference in the end," she stated. "It's a chance for students to clear their heads - it's psychological."

Silver agreed, adding that many students felt that they had earned the time off after a semester of work and

Statistical Summary of Calendar Committee Student Survey

Courtesy of Kashmira Makwana, Student Member of Calendar Committee

Survey Response:

- 9.5 percent of the total student population completed the survey.
- 7.5 percent of day students completed the survey.
- 19.5 percent of evening students completed the survey.
- 64.8 percent of the students who completed the survey were day students.
- 35.2 percent of the students who completed the survey were evening students.

Fall Semester Preference:

- 43.7 percent of the students surveyed preferred a thirteen-week fall semester.
- 54.9 percent preferred the current fourteen-week fall semester.
- 1.4 percent surveyed did not answer this question.
- 47.8 percent of the day students surveyed preferred the thirteen-week fall semester, while 50 percent preferred the fourteen-week fall semester.
- 36 percent of the evening students surveyed preferred a thirteen-week fall semester, while 64 percent preferred the current fourteen-week fall semester.

Preference for Starting Before or After Labor Day under "Worst Case Scenario":

- 84.5 percent of the students surveyed preferred to start the semester before Labor Day.
- 14.8 percent preferred to start the semester after Labor Day.

Spring Semester Preference:

- 43 percent of the students surveyed preferred a change to a thirteen-week spring semester, while 57 percent favored keeping the current fourteen-week spring semester.
- 44.6 percent of day students surveyed preferred the thirteen-week spring semester, while 55.4 percent preferred the fourteen-week spring semester.
- 40 percent of the evening students who completed the survey preferred the thirteen-week spring semester, while 60 percent preferred the fourteen-week spring semester.

Mini-Courses (one-week course prior to start of fall semester):

- 71.8 percent of the students surveyed indicated they would participate in a mini-course.
- 26.1 percent indicated they would not participate in a mini-course.
- 64.1 percent of the day students surveyed indicated they would participate in a mini-course, while 34.8 percent of the day students surveyed said they would not participate.
- 86 percent of the evening students who completed the survey indicated they would participate in a mini-course, while 10 percent indicated they would not participate.

Stress Level of Fall Interview Program (FIP):

- 62 percent of students surveyed indicated that holding the FIP before the start of the fall semester would reduce their stress level, while 33.8 percent said it would not.
- 65.2 percent of day students surveyed indicated it would reduce their stress level, while 30.4 percent of day students said it would not.
- 56 percent of evening students surveyed said the change would reduce their FIP-related stress, while 40 percent of evening students said it would not.

felt something would be taken away from them if the reading period were shortened to accommodate a shorter semester. "The administration says, 'Here - have a little break and let yourself catch up,'" he said. "Students see a trade-off - it's like they're taking something away from us. In reality, reading days are important, but perception-wise, they're huge."

Saltzburg noted, however, that 1Ls are likely far more concerned about reading days than other students and that the survey results do not indicate how students voted by class. "One of the things I can't tell from the survey is how many third-years voted who aren't coming back next year and might not have strong opinions about reading days as first-years might," he said. "First-years, I think, would be paranoid about reading days."

Saltzburg remarked that 2Ls and 3Ls are likely more interested in adding a week or two to their summers to allow them to work more at summer jobs. "That's extra money in their pocket," he pointed out. Ultimately, however, Saltzburg said he was pleased with the survey, which was compiled and analyzed by Makwana and Silver. "The survey made us very confident that we have a fair sense of the division on the issue," he said. "The two students on the committee did a wonderful job with the report."

Saltzburg stated that the survey has given the committee a strong sense of student opinion and will help the committee make a full and balanced presentation to the faculty later this month. "We wanted to be sure we were not going to disappoint ninety percent of the students," he remarked. Neither Silver or Makwana chose to speculate as to whether the faculty would adopt a shorter semester, but Saltzburg said the faculty was likely as split as students on the issue. "I don't even know how I would vote," he remarked.



CONTINUED NEWS

RANKINGS FROM PAGE 1

is alleged to have done."

Professor John Banzhaf noted that because six schools are tied for twenty-fifth place, it is more accurate to say GW is ranked "somewhere between twenty-fifth and thirtieth." Looking at the rankings in this fashion could have a possible upside, as it "might help persuade President [Trachtenberg] to give more money to the law school, which now receives a far lower percentage of the tuition revenues which it generates than most law schools," remarked Banzhaf.

Administrators and faculty believe year-to-year fluctuations will not harm students' opportunities for employment. Fred Thrasher, Director of Career Development, said, "I don't think this year's ratings will have any adverse impact on the recruitment of GW Law students. Our students have a solid reputation amongst legal employers." This year's ratings echo Thrasher's comment, as only sixteen schools in the first tier had a higher rate of students employed at graduation (92.1 percent of GW law students were employed at graduation). Professor Brad Clark emphasized that, "The most important part of the ranking for students is GW's reputation among lawyers and judges, who base their opinion on the long-term reputation of the school and the quality of its graduates. We score very high on these counts."

Many students nonetheless believe that a strong standing in the rankings is important. Christiana Callahan, a 3L, said, "The administration should focus on rankings, especially now when grads are dependent on the school's reputation to get a job in the tough economy." Corrie Westbrook, a 2L SBA Representative, feels that it is important that the school "stay[s] in the Top Twenty-Five." Mikhaelle Schiappacasse, a 1L, noted that "students do take [rankings] into account when they are applying, and it could somewhat determine the quality of students drawn to GWU Law."

Members of the Law School community agree that, irrespective of the rankings, the school's paramount goal should be improving the quality of education and student life at the law school. De' Famuyiwa, a 3L, and the SBA President, remarked, "The real question students should ask is whether the administration caters to [their] needs. If the administration is lacking in that regard, then our problem does not lie with the ratings, [but rather] within our walls." Dean Trangsud added, "We are striving every year to increase the quality of the students, to hire the best teachers and scholars, to improve the administrative services...and the physical plant where we all work and study. If we succeed with our plans, over time what we are doing here will be recognized by others."

PROTESTERS FROM PAGE 1

school-related events were planned for this weekend, although Morrison does not expect the demonstrations to interfere with students using the library or those scheduled to take finals in the Moot Court Room. "We anticipate it will be disruptive - it'll be noisy but not anything else," he predicted.

Corrie Westbrook, a 1L day student, and an SBA representative, said she was more concerned about disruptions caused by GW students than by protestors. "I had trouble last week with the freshman party," she said, referring to the freshman block party held on the quad April 6th that featured an afternoon of blaring live music performances. "I'm more concerned about noise outside the library without forewarning [then the protests]," she commented.

mented.

Other students brushed off the possibility of inconvenience caused by the protests with equal ease. "I think my study habits will survive," said 1L Dan DeSouza, who was also unconcerned that the demonstrations would cause disruptions at Francis Scott Key Residence Hall, just a block down 20th Street from the law school.

Police officials plan to deploy civil disturbance units and close streets to rein in the protestors as they have in years past. Officials said they are also concerned about complications arising from a concurrent visit by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, although they do not anticipate that his presence will have much effect on the anticipated crowd turnout.

INTEGRITY POLICY FROM PAGE 3

ment letter or reprimand in a student's academic record. The only sanction that is outlined in the Integrity Policy is a minimum suspension of one year for significant plagiarism. Dean DeVigne described this by comparing "one or two sentences being copied" against plagiarism of an "entire note."

Professor Wilmarth said that the proposed changes to the George Washington University Law School Policy on Academic Integrity are the first such revisions since the Integrity Policy was introduced in 1999.

It is worth noting that the Integrity Policy does not have any sanctions for students that fail to disclose knowledge of academic dishonesty, such as the systems employed by the University of Virginia or West Point. Professor Wilmarth said that a duty to disclose knowledge of academic dishonesty is not in the Committee's current recommendations, although one faculty member has made such a suggestion. But, Professor Wilmarth acknowledged that there is "no widespread groundswell" to make a failure to report academic dishonesty a sanctionable offense. Professors, proctors, and students have in the past come forward with allegations of academic dishonesty.

Professor Wilmarth stated that most of the changes to the Integrity Policy have been made in order to clarify some points, or are technical modifications. Both Dean DeVigne and Professor Wilmarth credited the involved of the Committee's current student members for their work on the proposed amendments to the Integrity Policy. The Committee's student members suggested some amendments, such as the inclusion of a student member in charging someone with academic dishonesty. These changes are subject to approval by a majority vote by the faculty (quorum must be present) on April 26th, and would become final once there has been notice and publication of the amendments to the Integrity Policy. It is unclear whether the amendments would be effective for the upcoming final examination period.

One significant proposed change has been to alter the role of the Associate Dean of Students (currently Dean DeVigne). Rather than being involved from the beginning of the process until the time charges are brought, the Dean would have a reduced role. The Dean would still refer charges backed by probable cause to the Committee; however the Committee then would have at least one faculty member conduct an investigation of the alleged dishonesty.

After the investigation concludes, there would be a vote to decide if a student would be charged. This area brings another change, since a student would be part of the vote to decide to charge academic dishonesty; currently, only faculty members may vote. The next stage of the process would be an adjudication before a hearing panel (the hearing panel would still consist of three faculty members and two student members.) The student involved in voting for a hearing would be exempt from serving on the hearing panel. Student members on the hearing panel alternate, so that with the proposed changes, students would participate on one out of every three hearing panels. In addition, the proposal seeks to increase the number of student members from five to seven, due in part to the exclusive participation by one member in voting for charges to be brought before a hearing panel. Inevitably, the proposed changes would "relieve" Dean DeVigne of the multiple hats that she's worn in the process, according to Professor Wilmarth.

There are a few other changes worth mentioning in the soon to be disclosed report. The Chair of a hearing panel would be given discretion wherever the Integrity Policy is silent, although each hearing panel has a different Chair. Finally, the proposed changes seek to clarify the level of culpability for various types of conduct. A standard of recklessness, or the gross departure from the standards of reasonable care, would be required for cheating, forgery, plagiarism, fabrication, or unauthorized mul-

SPEAKER FROM PAGE 1

cash, limited pro bono work ... and longer hours," with the practice of law becoming more like a business and its members having "fallen to pecuniary interests."

Due to the enormous debt that today's law students face, according to Hirshon, students are foregoing jobs in the public sector in favor of those offering \$140,000 a year. Hirshon warned of the large number of billable hours that accompany such a salary. Hirshon termed this the "tyranny of billable hours," a system that did not always dominate the legal profession. The ABA currently has a commission, with United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer as a member, which is examining billable hours.

Hirshon had hopes that today's law students have the power to "shake the future of this profession," and that they need to "vocalize [that they] care about community service." In Hirshon's view, there are values that transcend generations, and include "vigorous representation of clients [and] concern of access to the legal system."

Hirshon attributed "satisfaction not by filling bank accounts" but by living comfortably and from helping others. In addition, Hirshon said that the ABA is currently trying to secure loan forgiveness for federal loans in an effort to reduce the debt that many law students will soon confront.

Many of the lecture's attendees concurred with Hirshon's concern with billable hours and the current state of the legal profession. Jeff Flores, a 1L, stated that he was "glad [that Hirshon] brought up the topic of billable hours." Flores remarked that he does not want to "be a slave to a law firm" when he graduates.

Professor Cynthia Lee, who teaches Professional Responsibility, said she "agree[s]" that the current method of evaluation can encourage attorneys to inflate billable hours which can cause ethical problems. Many ethical dilemmas are brought on by billable hours. In Lee's class, students discuss questions such as whether an attorney who travels five hours by plane on behalf of one client and works on another client's matter on the plane should bill both clients. Professor Lee recognized that there is "enormous pressure" for associates and partners to fulfill their billable hours requirements.

Hirshon spent time at the end of the lecture to take questions from the attendees. Questions covered the value of a degree from a lower-ranked law school changes to the ABA's role in the selection of federal judges, and future issues in the legal profession. The Dean of the Law School Michael Young asked about whether law school should be shortened from three years to two years. While Hirshon chose not to answer to this question, some in the audience discussed it. Lee predicted that law students would forego elective courses and would only take classes in areas on the bar exam if law school was shortened. Similarly, Flores cited the need to "hit the ground running" and being potentially adversely affected with a legal education consisting of two years.

multiple submissions (i.e. using the same paper for two different classes without the professor's permission). Conduct that would require an intentional or knowing level of proof includes: the damaging stealing, destroying, and hiding of library materials or academic records; impeding or damaging academic work of others; assisting or attempting to commit academic dishonesty; and the false testimony as to someone else's alleged academic dishonesty.

Preventive measures have been taken in order to ensure that less academic dishonest conduct occurs in the future. At the beginning of the academic year, student members of the Committee went to each Legal Research and Writing section to apprise the first-year students about the Policy. Faculty members spoke to each section during orientation about academic dishonesty. In addition, some faculty members have mentioned academic integrity during the course of the semester. Dean DeVigne said that there are no conclusions to be drawn from the report. However, the report does recognize that as of April 2002, no instances of conduct were alleged in the current academic year, which could lead to sanctions of expulsion or suspension. The Committee meets regularly, and readily welcomes any comments to either the Report or the Integrity Policy.

NEWS

Immigration Law Careers in the Government

By PAUL J. MEISSNER
Opinion Editor

On April 1st, various members of the professional community had a town hall type discussion on the possible opportunities for those students seeking opportunities in immigration law. Hosting the event was GW Law Professor Alberto Manuel Benitez. He asked his panel two major questions: (1) how did you end up doing what are doing now and (2) what would students in law school do to prepare for a career in immigration law?

First to speak was Laura Dawkins, who works for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Dawkins is a GW law alumna who obtained an interest in immigration law when she worked in a clinic on an immigration case. In her case, she represented a refugee requesting political asylum. Even though Dawkins lost the case, she had the opportunity to argue before an immigration law judge (ILJ). After her clinic experience, she worked in a large law firm. She said that "to no surprise" she hated the job.

Then, through an advertisement she saw calling for an immigration lawyer at a nonprofit agency, Dawkins was able to begin working on issues she cared more about, including working against gender based discrimination and female genital mutilation. In that position, she was able to stand before the Fourth Circuit and various immigration law judges.

After her nonprofit experience, Dawkins moved on to the ABA where she was managing grant programs. She also became involved in policy making regarding detention standards for immigrants. In a conversation with a friend, she learned that a position was open at the INS. At her current position, Dawkins works with a diverse array of issues including international adoptions, battered immigrants, trafficking of persons, and mail-order brides. She also provides assistance to INS employees around the nation regarding legal policies, and she is involved in drafting regulations and rulemaking.

Next to speak was Stuart Hatcher, who works at the State Department, where he has been since 1986. Before his employment, he said he had taken no immigration law courses nor was he really interested in immigration law at all. As a coincidence, someone at the career office told him that the Foreign Service Examination was coming up, so, he decided to take it in his own words "for no apparent reason."

The test, Hatcher remarked was extremely difficult, and he actually failed it twice before finally passing. Following the written test, Hatcher had to sit for an oral exam designed to see how he handled questions regarding policy and negotiating budgets in a pretend embassy. Upon passing that, he took a position as a Foreign Service generalist.

This job led him to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where he was assigned to interview visa applicants. In his post, he was able to meet a lot of people, and he got to make decisions as soon as he got there. In a matter of minutes, he explained, consular officers must determine if an applicant should be allowed into the United States and, if so, for how long. In addition, to these responsibilities, Hatcher worked on immigration cases. Persons living illegally in the United States would have to go to State Department offices in Mexico in order to apply for a visa. He also worked on

cases involving marriage fraud, adoptions, and child custody. He stressed the two goals of the consular officers: protection of borders and protection of citizens. Especially with the risks on Americans traveling overseas, protection of American citizens is most important.

Following Hatcher, the town hall audience heard from Laurence Levine, who works at the Office of General Counsel at Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). Like Dawkins, Levine also attended the law school. After graduation, he clerked for an administrative law judge and did civil rights work at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He eventually interviewed at INS and their department of immigration appeals.

He then worked at the Board of Immigration Appeals as a general attorney. In this position, he drafted streamlined decisions or full decisions. He also drafted decisions for board members and Sheparded regulations. After his work at the Board of Immigration Appeals, he moved into the EOIR where he works today.

The audience then heard a presentation from Tanya Parikh, who is in her final year at GW Law and a future clerk at Executive Office for Immigration Review. In December, Parikh accepted a position with the EOIR as a clerk in their Seattle field office. Upon starting at GW, she said she doubted her participation in law school. However, she clerked at the immigration court in Arlington, and she found her calling there. During her first few days clerking for the court, she commented that she listened in on various cases including a case in which a woman petitioned for political asylum claiming that the Ethiopian government was persecuting her for her Eritrean ancestry.

Parikh remarked that she "enjoyed" her summer clerking experience, and she applied for a permanent position through the Department of Justice Honors program. After the application process and a quick phone interview, she was accepted to work at the EOIR office in Seattle. She will be working for four ALJs, and the position calls for some travel in the Pacific Northwest region.

The next speaker was Professor Lorri Unumb, who now runs the Legal Research and Writing Program, but formerly worked for Office of Immigration Litigation at the Justice Department. Unumb attended the University of South Carolina Law School. While she was there, she said, she did nothing to prepare for immigration law.

Much like Parikh, the DOJ Honors Program accepted Unumb. When she discussed the position with various DOJ coordinators, they informed her that she would be working for the Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL). In the Civil Division of DOJ, OIL represents INS or EOIR. OIL acts as outside counsel for these federal entities in the judicial system, Unumb explained.

Due to a lack of interest in immigration law, she almost did not take the position. Even though she did not take immigration law, Unumb said she was able to learn about the field through a two-week course offered at OIL that seeks to train new employees on the basics of the field. While in OIL, Unumb said she was surprised at the amount of autonomy she had with each case in regard to immigration, litigation, and appellate practice. Even though she was still new, her first case was before the Ninth Circuit, and after only five months,

Around the World in a Week

By MARK HERSHFIELD
Editor-in-Chief

For those interested in pursuing a career in International Law, the week of April 1st was something more than a joke. The International Law Society at GW law school, in conjunction with the International Law Societies chapters of Georgetown University Law Center and American University's Washington College of Law, held "International Law Week 2002," which ran from April 1st to April 6th.

The goal of the week program according to Jorge Restrepo, the President of the International Law Society and one of the main organizers of this year's event was "to increase awareness in the student body of the increasing importance and relevance that international law has on all legal practices."

The beginning of the week consisted of several coordinated visits to International Law Firms such as Baker & McKenzie, Holland & Knight, Steptoe Johnson, Cleary Gottlieb, Winston and Strawn. Others held cocktail receptions for students, noted Restrepo. These programs according to Restrepo gave "students an opportunity to learn first hand what it is like to practice international law." He also pointed out that the visits give the firms "possible recruit-

ing opportunities."

The week also contained a panel discussion on "International Law and Democratization in Transitional Countries." On April 4th, the Washington College of Law held a discussion on the Former Soviet Union countries and Russia. Finally, on April 6th, the law school held a panel discussion focused on the question of whether the U.S. Changed its Approach to global democratization and to dealing with transitional countries after Sept. 11th.

To conclude the week, the International Law groups offered students the unique opportunity for a small fee to attend dinners at the Korean Ambassador's private residence, the Chilean Embassy the Czech Embassy, and the Turkish Embassy. All these embassy-related events were open in the words of Restrepo to "all the law students." Matt Algeri, a member of the International Law Society, went to the Czech Embassy. He described the food at the embassy as "excellent" and the speech as "pretty good". Overall, he pointed out that the attendance was "good" at the embassy.

Many students participated in the International Law Week. The International Law Week has become a yearly ritual amongst the DC area law schools. When asked about the odds of the International Law Week returning next spring, Algeri responded "one hundred percent!"

Where Has All the Soda Gone?

By ERIKA TURNER
Staff Writer

Law students looking to quench their thirst have two main options: (A) they can go to the "cart lady" or (B) they can use the vending machines at the law school. Over the past couple months the trend towards the cart lady has been more like a stampede. Law student Stephanie Bryant bypasses the vending machines for the cart lady when she is thirsty and rushing to class. That's because when Bryant does put money in the vending machines—about three times a week—they are empty. "It always seems to happen when you're really, really thirsty," she remarked.

Many law students like Bryant are tired of putting money in the machines only to see the "sold out" light come up on the machine. The SBA has heard the chorus of complaints and the SBA is now currently working with the GW Auxiliary and Institutional Services Department to make sure that the vending machines are filled on a more frequent basis.

2L-Day Representative, Corrie Westbrook contacted Auxiliary Services about two weeks ago to attempt to resolve this problem. She pointed out that the Auxiliary Services is in touch with the Coke Company to try to get someone to refill the

machines twice a week. "I think if they did it Friday and late Tuesday or early Wednesday that would be good," she said. Westbrook also commented that the situation is especially bad because all the school's vending machines (not just one at a time) are usually empty. Matthew Algeri, a 2L, agreed. "I need caffeine and I can't get it," he said. Algeri also remarked [on a related note] that the juice machine regularly spits out juice that he does not want.

According to SBA President De Famuyiwa, the Department has indicated that it was not aware of the extent of the law school's vending machine problem. Famuyiwa finds this strange. "It's funny to me since we've had the problem for a long time," he stated. He continued skeptically, "They apparently didn't know it was that much of a problem."

Famuyiwa wants the current problem to be solved and he also wants the machines to be filled more than [the current] once a week basis. He pointed out that there is soda in the machines at the undergraduate buildings. "That's not right ... it's a really big problem [here]," stated Famuyiwa.

Student complaints dealing with the vending machine vary widely. Law Student Eric Metallo remarked on the fact that the vending machines sometimes do not accept dollar bills. But he, like most students, indicated that the biggest problem with the machines is the fact that they are usually empty. "...It's annoying that they don't take dollars but at least they don't eat the dollars," he said. "Hopefully they can fill them more often." Law students eager await a resolution of this issue that will "quench" their thirst.

Unumb orally argued a case before Judge Posner in the Seventh Circuit. In her time at OIL, Unumb was involved in cutting-edge litigation involving an unauthorized vehicle seizure and a prolonged detention of a Vietnamese immigrant.

Overall the event was well attended and students left with a better understanding of the field of immigration law.

NEWS

Four Guinea Pigs Chosen for Laptop Program

By SAM SCHNEIDER
News Editor

Students enrolled in four classes this semester will be able to participate in a pilot program being offered for the first time. This program will give students the option of taking their final exams on laptop computers. According to Roseanne O'Hara, the director of the Student Administrative Services, the program owes its existence to requests from students over the past few years. "We're responding to the students' request for this," O'Hara stated.

The pilot program will allow students in four classes, Constitutional Law II with Professor Mary Cheh, Separation of Powers with Professor Todd Peterson, Administrative Law with Professor John Banzhaf, and Contracts II with Professor Steven Schooner, to download a program called Extegrity onto their laptop computers. Once at the exam, the proctors will issue the students using laptops a special password that will lock up the computer's hard drive. Extegrity will then run a simple word processing program, which functions, according to O'Hara, like a typewriter. The program automatically saves the work every ten seconds on the computer's hard drive. At the end of the exam, Extegrity will copy the file onto a floppy disk, which will be turned into the proctors. O'Hara said that the proctors will check the integrity of the file on the floppy disk before the student leaves the testing room to ensure that the exam has been properly saved.

Even if an error were to occur, O'Hara said, Extegrity preserves an encrypted copy of the student's work on the hard drive, which can be accessed by the law school in the event of a problem with the floppy disk. O'Hara remarked that following the exam, the floppy disks would be brought to the copy center for printing and distribution, and the exams will be given to the professor for grading.

Several students have expressed concern about the ability of the program. According to the Extegrity web site, the program is a, "secure word processing environment designed for a single purpose - enabling students to type essay exams on their own computers." Extegrity calls itself an "armored word processor."

O'Hara said that the four classes were selected for the pilot program because the administration felt the faculty involved "would be excited in trying it out." Peterson said he was asked to participate in the program by the Records Office. "I think it's something that is inevitably going to arrive here," he commented. Peterson conducted a poll of his students in his Separation of Powers class before agreeing to allow the program into his class. Of the sixty-one students in that class, he estimated that a "significant majority" would take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the program.

Roger Trangsrud, the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, pointed out that students who choose to use laptops to take their exams could have an advantage over students who elect to handwrite their tests because typists produce a more "readable" product than most hand writers, and

usually in a shorter amount of time. However, he said, "Even if the text of an answer is completely transparently readable it may not help the student.... Most faculty will tell you that the length of an exam answer is only occasionally ... related to the grade." Peterson agreed with this sentiment, saying that he would not allow the fact that an exam was typed to affect its grade. "It's principally the substance anyway," he said.

If the program works as well as O'Hara anticipates, the option will be open for all classes for Fall 2002 exams. O'Hara said that each faculty member would have the ability to veto the use of laptops for an individual class. Additionally, students who are uncomfortable with the use of laptops can elect to handwrite their exams in a separate room. O'Hara pointed out that in ad-

Congratulations to the McKenna & Cuneo Government Contracts Moot Court Competition Award Winners

WINNING TEAM

Grant Kronenberg & Erik Petersen

RUNNER-UP TEAM

Amanda Hammond & Amanda Weiner

BEST BRIEF AUTHORS

Amanda Hammond & Amanda Weiner

SPECIAL AWARDS FOR WRITTEN ADVOCACY

Bridgette Ahn & John Charters

BEST ORALIST

Alyssa Schindler

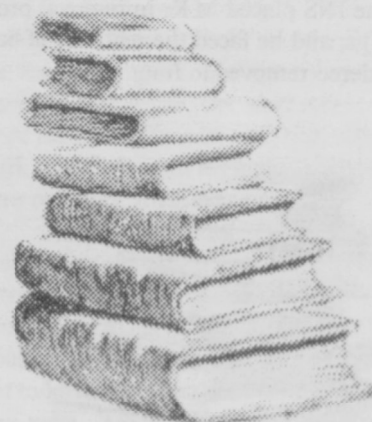
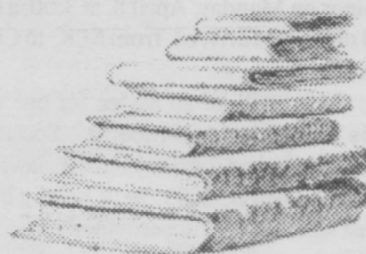
SPECIAL AWARD FOR ORAL ADVOCACY

Corey Shapiro

Based on their successful performance in the competition, the following students have been selected to join the moot court board.

Corey Shapiro
Michelle Kennedy
Grant Kronenberg
Jose Rivas
Amanda Hammond
John Charters

dition to many other law schools in the United States allowing laptops on exams, the California Bar Exam has also introduced the use of computers to bar exam takers. "I'm very hopeful," she said. "I think it's great." If the pilot program is successful the laptop computer may soon become the dominate way to take exams at the law school.



NEWS

GW's Finest to Perform at Graduation

By TASHIBA MONIQUE JONES
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

This year, the program for the GW Law School commencement ceremony will be different than that of years past. Two law students, Tameika Lunn and Kamala Miller, both graduating students, will perform the National Anthem at the graduation ceremony held on May 26th.

Initially, Erica Lord and Jennifer McCarthy, who co-chair the Student Bar Association Commencement Committee, brought the idea of a student performance to the attention of Dean Thomas Morrison. "[Dean Morrison] was very receptive to the idea," Lord remarked. "Jen and I just thought it would be an honor for a graduate to perform the Anthem at graduation, particularly because patriotism has been so high since September 11th."

Over a two-week period, auditions were held to select the students that were to perform the National Anthem. Seven or eight students tried out. Lord explained that the SBA Commencement Committee, along with outgoing SBA President Phil Tahtakran, was present to judge the auditions. The auditions were brief – each individual sang or performed the National Anthem in the style and manner that they intended to perform if selected. "We ended up selecting Tameika because she has an

amazing voice and didn't miss a single note in her audition," Lord maintained. "She is trained and experienced in singing in front of audiences. We also selected Kamala to 'sign' along with the National Anthem because we thought it would add to the ceremony – her interpretation of the Anthem was very expressive and moving," she stated.

Neither Lunn nor Miller has been a stranger to performing for the law school community. Both gave performances in the *Law Revue Show*, where they displayed such talents as singing, dancing, and acting. Also, both participated in BLSA's Poetry Night – where Lunn sang and Miller recited a few of her own poetic works. Lunn said she tried out because, "I thought it was a great idea to have a 3L perform the National Anthem, especially since we have so many talented law students who rarely get a chance to share their talents with the law school community."

Lunn has been singing since she was a little girl. She started training classically when she was thirteen years old and has four years of opera performance. In addition, she has sung in numerous musicals, church choirs, and small ensembles since she was twelve. Lunn received a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 1999 where she also received a certificate of Op-

era Performance.

Miller, who will be signing the National Anthem, says she decided to try out because she thought that "the National Anthem is a beautiful song to sign and I thought it would nicely complement who was singing it, although it wasn't suggested." Since she was nine years old, Miller has been signing using the American Sign Language version, which is more common than the Sign English version, which is a word for word translation. She was taught to sign by her cousin, who is hearing impaired, in an effort to hang out with her cousin and her cousin's friends. "I used to go to deaf services at church, deaf parties and plays at local theaters," she said.

Dean Morrison indicated that students have performed the National Anthem at law school graduation ceremonies in the past, but it has been a couple of years since a class expressed interest in having graduating students sing. "I think that it will be amazing to have both Tameika and Kamala performing the Anthem. Both ladies are extremely qualified and both of them are widely known amongst graduating students, so it should be really special to have them perform," Lord said. "Personally, I think it is also a nice reminder that law students have other talents and that our class is made up of people with a variety of backgrounds and special abilities," she stated.

Both students expressed their joy and excitement at being selected to perform the National Anthem at graduation. "I am honored to be chosen to sing," Lunn said. "I am excited and my family is extremely happy. I haven't been able to perform very often since I started law school so my family can't wait for May 26th to get here." Likewise, Miller remarked, "I feel honored that I'm chosen to do it. I told my family and they were very excited."

Due to the new meaning that the National Anthem has since September 11th, both students admit to feeling an added sense of honor – and pressure. "Basically, my nervousness stems from the fact that I'll be singing at the commencement in front of my classmates. That song has always been an important part of most Americans lives. After September 11th, the Anthem does spark a larger sense of nationalism and emotion in Americans. For singers, I think the terrorist attacks cause them to sing the Anthem with more musical passion and heart," Miller said. "[September 11th] makes it more important to me. I hope I don't cry."

Lord believes that the student contributions will add to the ceremony and hopes that next year's Commencement Committee will repeat the tradition.

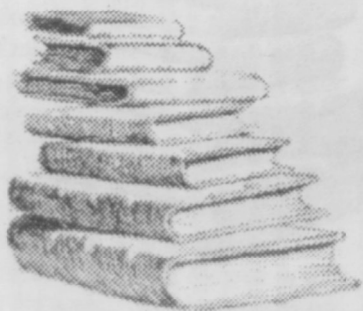
Clinic Student Gains Valuable Experience While Providing Real Assistance

By PROFESSOR ALBERTO MANUEL BENITEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION CLINIC

Immigration Clinic student Christina M. Ferris will graduate on May 26, 2002. She'll depart GW, one, with a JD, and two, having possibly saved the life of her client. On Friday, April 5, 2002, immigration judge (IJ) Wayne R. Iskra granted the asylum application of Christina's client, M.K., a citizen of Iraq. M.K. fled Iraq on August 28, 2000, because of his opposition to being drafted into the Iraqi Army, and his opposition to Saddam Hussein. His journey took him to Jordan, Russia, Cuba, Ecuador, Colombia, and finally, the US. When he arrived in the US, on November 2, 2000, he was able to persuade the INS that he possessed a credible fear of persecution in Iraq on account of his political opinion. Still the INS placed M.K. in removal proceedings, and he faced the real risk of being ordered removed to Iraq.

Christina was solely responsible for gathering the documents that she filed with the IJ in support of the asylum application. One of the documents stated that the Iraqi Government inflicts the penalty of amputation of ears on draft dodgers. Prior to April 5 Christina did two moot courts with her client. At the hearing itself Christina superbly direct-examined her client, and after the INS trial attorney's effective cross-examination, redirected. Christina also did an excellent closing statement. After both sides rested the IJ immediately dictated his order from the bench, and he made a point of saying that he would have granted restriction on removal and relief pursuant to the UN Convention Against Torture (both of these forms of mandatory relief have higher burdens of proof yet provide less benefits than asylum) had he denied asylum as a matter of discretion. After going off the record the IJ asked to speak with Christina, and he complimented her on the methodical, organized manner in which she presented her case. The IJ said it was one of the best performances he had ever seen. **NOTE:** During the Immigration Clinic seminar on Monday, April 8, at 3:00, a bouquet of flowers arrived, from M.K. to Christina.

M.K. will be an asylee for one year. He is immediately entitled to a Social Security card, and he may work lawfully. Then on April 5, 2003, he'll be eligible to adjust status to lawful permanent residence. And five years after that he'll be eligible to apply for naturalization to US citizenship.



Fast food firms responsible for obesity: experts

By CTVNEWS.COM STAFF
SAT. MAR. 30 2002 11:49 AM
WWW.CTVNEWS.COM

There's a new game of who's-to-blame boiling in the U.S. and spilling into Canada. Some legal minds in the world's two fattest nations are looking at who is making North Americans obese.

"I think when a fast food company deliberately doesn't tell you important information, that both legally and morally they bare some responsibility," says law professor John Banzhaf, of George Washington University.

Banzhaf has helped mastermind lawsuits against big tobacco firms who didn't tell smokers about the addictiveness of nicotine.

"That's deception by omission," says Banzhaf.

But tobacco firms aren't the only ones blowing smoke. McDonald's recently agreed to pay out \$12 million for not disclosing it used beef fat in its french fries.

"Perhaps the entire food industry has a duty to let people know that these products containing very high saturated fat and a lot of cholesterol can harm them," says James Pizzirusso, a plaintiff in a case against McDonald's.

Roughly 55 per cent of Canadians say they want more information on healthy food choices. But people have to ask for such information at most fast food chains.

Restaurants don't advertise that eating a typical hamburger combo means eating all the fat you need in a whole day.

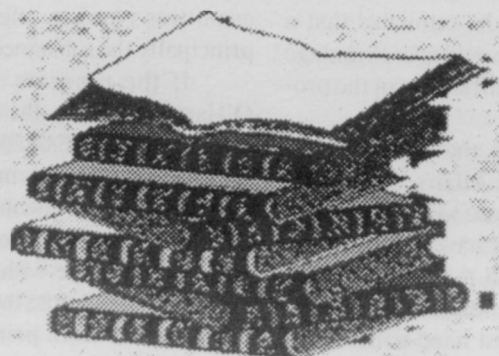
Some American lawyers say that could make for the next wave of lawsuits.

"Major food companies are vulnerable to these kinds of suits, if they misrepresent or fail to disclose certain facts about their foods," says Banzhaf.

But as long as the food is safe, the U.S. restaurant industry says, "We're not really in the role of telling them, a customer, what they can and can't eat," says Steven Grover, of the National Restaurant Association.

Recently, the U.S. Surgeon General estimated obesity costs the American economy more than \$117 billion every year. That's right on the heels of smoking, at \$130 billion.

Canada is leading the world in efforts to snuff out smoking through advertising. But whether french fry boxes will come with warnings of clogged arteries and heart disease in the near future remains to be seen.



FEATURES

The Big Question

A third of us are about to leave law school and venture out into the Real World. The least we can do is wish you good luck on your trek into the unknown. Got any last words?

IF YOU HAD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR THE INCOMING 1LS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"In your first year, don't do everything that everyone tells you to do."

-Lucy Liew

"Keep your credit in good shape and pay your bills on time."

-Angelia Wade

"Go to class."

-Sam Whitfield III

"It's never too early to get to know the professors at the law school, even if you haven't had them because they can be an invaluable resource for your future."

-Sean McKenna

"Whatever you do, don't fall in love with your professor."

-Tashiba Monique Jones

"Don't ever get behind in your reading."

-Kamala Miller

"If you're in the first floor men's bathroom at the Marvin Center and someone offers to take you on a ride, do not accept."

-Dustin Allison

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST AND WORST MOMENTS WHILE AT GW LAW?

Worst: "The first 5 minutes before my first exam, my 1st semester of law school."

-Sean McKenna

Best: "In my Trial Ad class, during my mock trial when I was in a zone - and I realized right then and there that I'm going to be a great litigator."

Edgar Lopez

Worst: "The moment after my exit interview."

-Erica Gayle

Best: "As I look back, the best, or better put, most touching moment I had here was when Seema Kakade helped me through a very bad day."

-Dustin Allison

Worst: "After finishing my Civ Pro I Exam, talking to a classmate about it and realizing that I overlooked the general jurisdiction issue in the fact pattern."

-Tashiba Monique Jones

Worst: "Getting my first C ever."

Best: "Getting a C+."

-Jimma Elliott-Stevens

Ted's Excellent Advice

Bill & Ted Go Their Separate Ways

Dear Ted,

I know what you are thinking dude, I am supposed to be giving advice not asking for it right? Well, here is my situation and with me graduating in like a month, I really need some advice. I must confess, dudes and dudettes, I am not quite the stud I portray myself to be. Sure I have gotten my share of booty, but everything is changed since September 11th. For some reasons I can no longer get any.

Now, I have never gotten any from law school chicks (probably something to do with them being intelligent and selective), but I have always been able to score with my share of college freshmen. The well, however, has run dry. There are no chicks, I mean babes, I mean girls, I mean women in sight, so I am coming to you for some advice. Now, I know you don't know much about women, but in my mind something is better than nothing, and I am downright desperate.

So my question is a simple one: how do I turn myself into a guy who has a chance of scoring with a chick (any chick here I am not being picky)? Please help! Noth-

ing would be a better graduation present than that perfect law school honey. You know the type. The type who will take my finals for me, change my grades, and basically help me graduate from here. So hit me up with some of that advice ...

Bill

Ted: So Bill you have finally cracked have you? Whats the problem, have you been studying too much? No wait a second, this is you Bill, the guy who has never studied a day in his life and thought it was fun to give me a "swirly"

on a daily basis throughout high school. I feel like the God-father as the shoe is finally on the other foot. You have finally re-

alized that as your intellectual superior, I am the true "king" of advice. Well, you asked, so here I go ...

You know you aren't really that bad of a guy. Sure you could shower more, and go to the gym (for a purpose other than to hit on married women) on a more consistent basis, but you should be able to find some woman (keep in mind I am only covering your physical appearance). Then of course there is your personality, dude. I had this friend a year back who thought you were cute. She even told me as much (but I didn't tell you, because I thought it would inflate your ego).

but do you know what she told me? She

said, "Bill is a nice

guy, but

then he

opens

his big

mouth"

Billfire

is you

need a

personality

adjustment.

Relax and stop trying to be someone you are not. Stop trying to impress everyone. Do what makes you happy, and girls will come your way. Now, I am not guaranteeing that you will "magically" find some girl tomorrow, but some day. There is a girl out there for everyone (even you Bill). And while we are on the subject, for god sakes stop going after 16 year old girls!!! You need a woman, not a babysitter! And as far as finals are concerned try picking up a book and reading it. No one is going to be there to hold your hand when we leave this place, and you are going to have to learn to be your own man. If you heed my advice "my friend" (you may be a dork, but you're still my buddy), things will turn out okay, trust me.

Last but not least, Dorothy isn't in Kansas anymore, and you're not in college anymore. Grow up, join the real world, and learn how to have fun without drinking yourself into a stupor. You might actually get to have a conversation with the women you meet. Good luck buddy! It was fun messing up our readers lives with you!

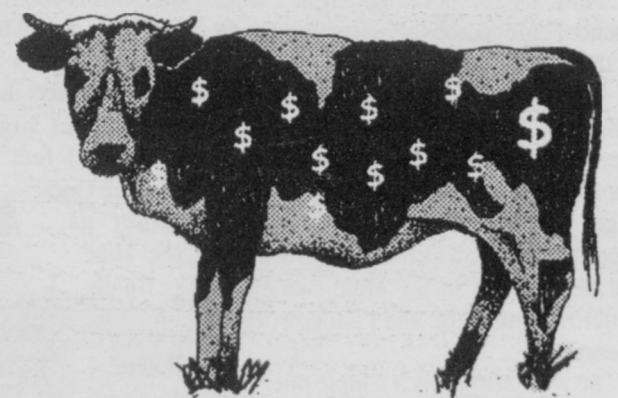
Ted



NEWS

Budget Recommendation 2002-2003

<u>Organizations</u>	<u>2001-02 Allocation</u>	<u>2002-03 Allocation</u>
Amnesty International	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
APALSA	\$ 1,945.00	\$ 1,470.00
BLSA	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,750.00
Christian Legal Society - NEW	\$ 110.00	\$ 475.00
Corporate Law Association - NEW	\$ 0.00	\$ 837.50
Criminal Law Society - NEW	\$ 100.00	\$ 450.00
Democratic Law Students Association	\$ 620.00	\$ 515.00
Environmental Law Association	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,560.00
ESPLA	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,000.00
Equal Justice Foundation	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,930.00
Evening Law Student Association	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,275.00
Federalist Society	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,057.00
HLSA	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,560.00
International Law Society	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
Lambda Law	\$ 820.00	\$ 870.00
Law Association for Women	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 2,100.00
National Lawyers Guild	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 825.00
Phi Alpha Delta	\$ 705.00	\$ 880.00
Phi Delta Phi	\$ 510.00	\$ 635.00
SALSA	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,620.00
SIPLA	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00
Street Law - NEW	\$ 200.00	\$ 840.00
Student Health Association	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Subtotal:	\$ 24,830.00	\$ 27,099.50
<u>Probationary Organizations</u>		
American Constitution Society	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
Forensic Science	\$ 40.00	\$ 0.00
Jewish Law Student Association	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00
Muslim Law Student Association	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00
St. Thomas More Society	\$ 855.00	\$ 0.00
Subtotal:	\$ 1,445.00	\$ 0.00
Total for Organizations	\$ 26,275.00	\$ 27,099.50
<u>SBA Committees</u>		
Commencement	\$ 22,610.65	\$ 16,000.00
First-Year Programs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,500.00
Programs Board	\$ 44,800.00	\$ 39,500.00
Total for Committees:	\$ 77,410.65	\$ 64,000.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	\$ 102,980.65	\$ 91,099.50
<u>Newly Created Ad Hoc Groups:</u>		
	<u>Money Spent to Date</u>	<u>Projected Amounts</u>
American Constitution Society	\$ 263.20	\$ 3,420.00
Forensic Science	\$ 39.97	\$ 1,680.00
Muslim Law Student Association	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,150.00
St. Thomas More Society	\$ 742.99	\$ 2,360.00
Total	\$ 1,296.16	\$ 8,610.00
<u>Projected Revenue</u>		
Law School Fund	\$ 27,850.00	
Student Association Allocation	\$ 27,104.00	
Locker Rentals	\$ 13,500.00	
Programs Board Revenue:		
Barrister's Ball	\$ 18,000.00	
Halloween Party	\$ 2,500.00	
Ski Trip	\$ 10,000.00	
Commencement Revenue:		
Cruise on the Potomac	\$ 2,000.00	
TOTAL:	\$ 100,954.00	

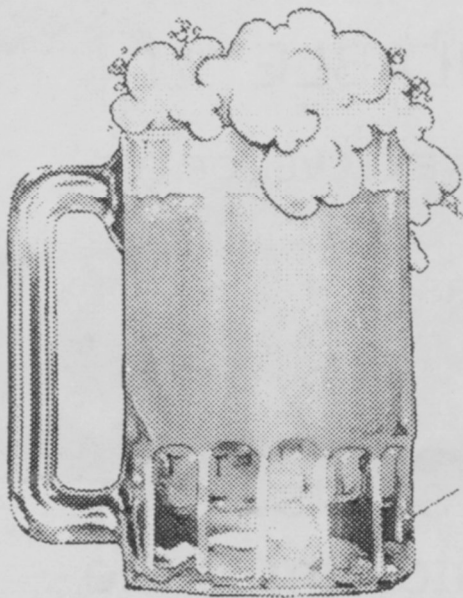


Moo!

HUMOR



How far has Michael gone?



Beer: Get fueled up for Finals!
Your grades may not be better,
but you'll sure feel better!

The Staff of the Nota Bene wanted to wish
you all good luck on
your finals....

...but then we realized that GW has a
forced curve.

THE MOMENT

By EDDIE GOMEZ
Features Editor

I am the luckiest of lucky men. I am the master of my domain, of my realm of absolute power. I have worked hard and long under the tutelage of the wisest beings. Eighteen years I have spent perfecting my trade, working up to this place in time...this wonderful moment.

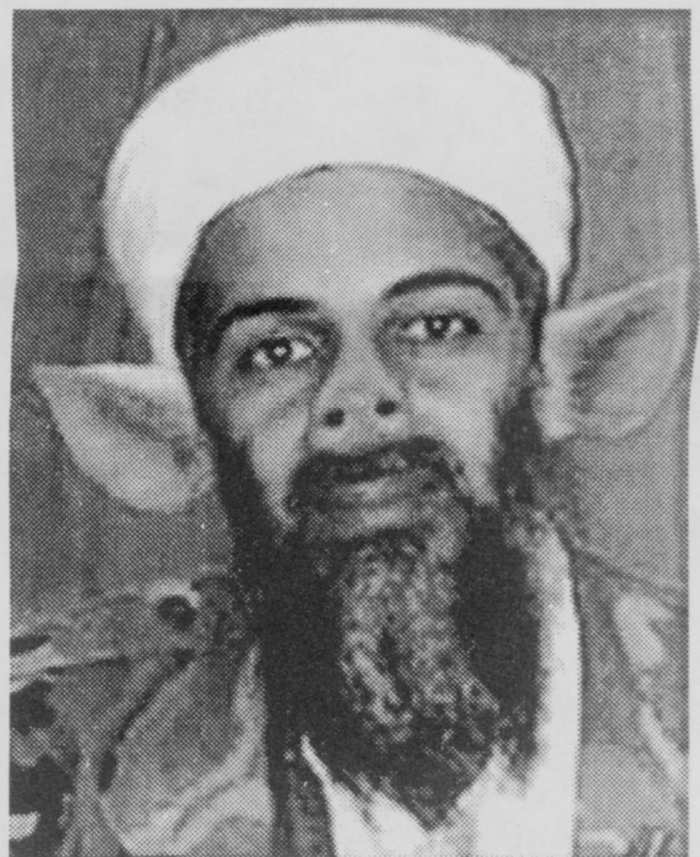
I see him enter my realm. Yes, he will be the first who will share in my mastery. He will be dazzled by my power, by my ability to rise and conquer all with what I have learned, with what I am about to tell him. He cannot possibly comprehend what it is I will say; but it is my duty, my mission to spread my knowledge in the hopes that someone as brilliant as I can decipher my beautiful message in the future.

As he nears, I run through it in

my mind, making sure it is flawless, absolute. I think about all of those gifted beings who have helped me understand, who have helped me see. And I thank them, knowing that all of their lives will be fulfilled and justified at this point...this very moment.

The ecstasy, the joy as he approaches. Will he understand? Can he? Is he worthy? No matter. All of those below me *must* hear my message. They must see what I've seen. We are eye to eye now and as I look into his empty, wandering eyes, I know I will feed his hunger. His ignorance will be annihilated. I know I will serve my purpose. We stare at each other for two long seconds and then, only then, I begin.

"Welcome to Wendy's. Can I take your order?"



ROUGH ROAD AHEAD

S	U	R	E		K	O	D	A	K		I	T	C	H
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BE PART OF THE ACTION ...

CROSSFIRE AT GW UNIVERSITY

FREE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

AT THE TICKETMASTER BOX OFFICE ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE
MARVIN CENTER

THERE IS A 2 TICKET LIMIT PER PERSON

The program will air "live" weeknights from
7-8 p.m. at the Jack Morton Auditorium in the
Media and Public Affairs Building.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Audience members must be
seated by 6:30 p.m.

For more information about "Crossfire at GW" and tickets, call 202-994-8CNN

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